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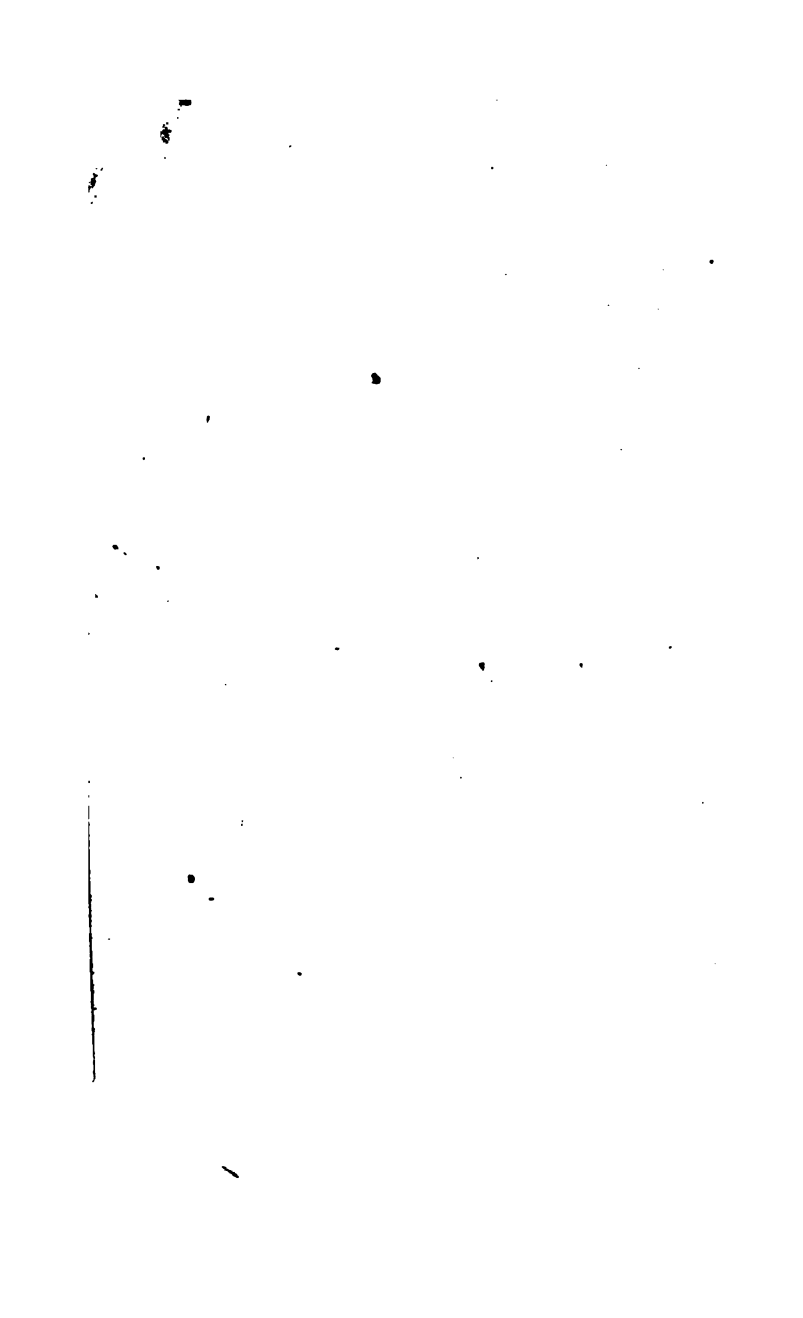


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11
Memorandum.



MEMOIRS
OF THE
PRINCE OF WALES.
VOL. III.



MEMOIRS
OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE
Prince of Wales.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

—◆—
“In these unhappy times, the world, Sir, examine the conduct of Princes with a jealous, a scrutinizing, a malignant eye. No man is more aware than I am of the existence of such a disposition, and no man is, therefore, more determined to place himself above all suspicion.”

Letter from the Prince of Wales to the King.

—◆—
VOL. III.

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MEMOIRS
OF
H. R. H. George Augustus Frederick
PRINCE OF WALES.

CHAPTER I.

ASPECT OF THE POLITICAL WORLD AT THE
COMMENCEMENT OF THE YEAR 1803—REVIEW
OF THE CONDUCT OF FRANCE AFTER THE
PEACE OF AMIENS—DEBATES IN THE IMPE-
RIAL PARLIAMENT—RENEWAL OF HOSTILI-
TIES—HIGH SPIRIT DISPLAYED BY ALL
RANKS OF THE BRITISH NATION ON THE OC-
CASION—CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE
PRINCE OF WALES, MR. ADDINGTON, THE
KING, AND THE DUKE OF YORK—REMARKS
ON THE CORRESPONDENCE.

THE peace of Amiens, or rather the
truce of Amiens, (for a treaty con-
cluded under circumstances of mutual
jealousy and suspicion, hardly deserves

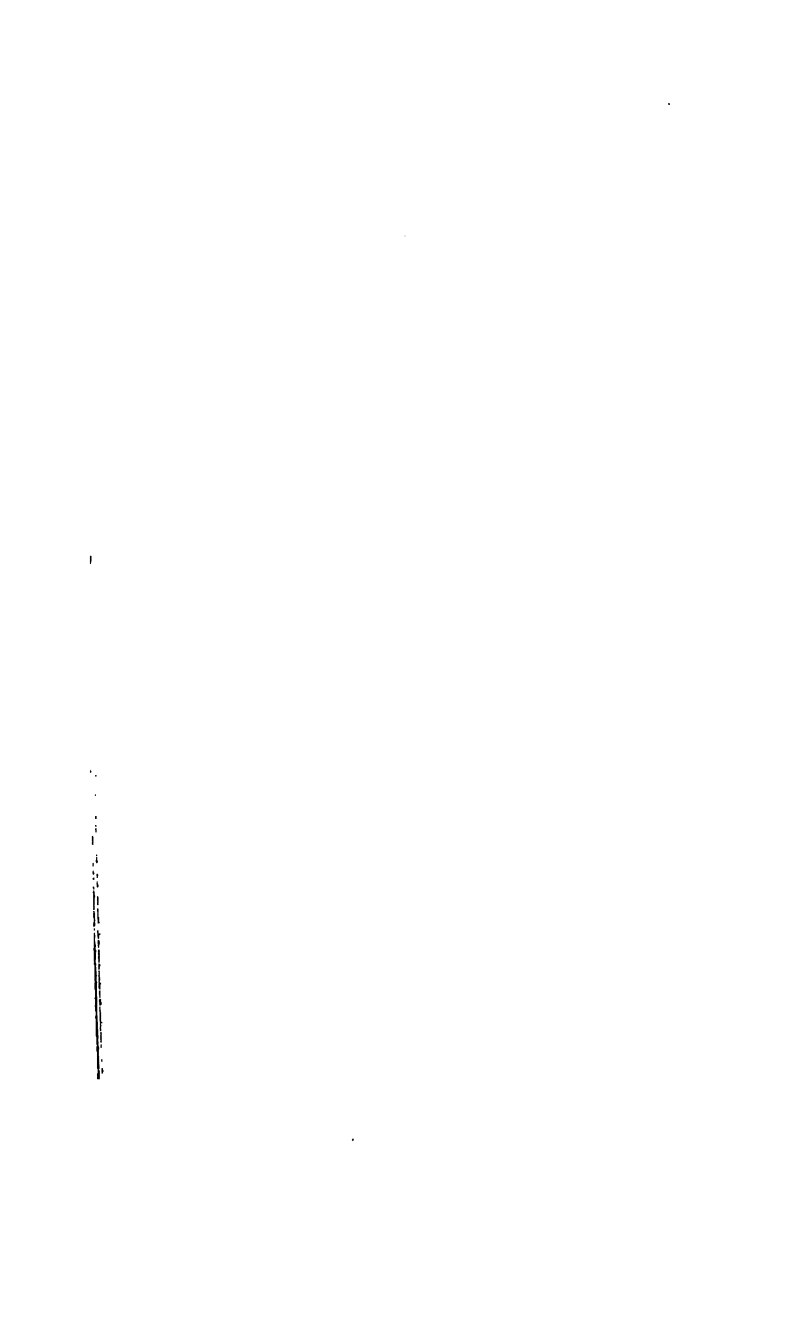
the name of peace) was destined to be of no long duration. The effervescence caused by the French revolution had by no means subsided when that peace was concluded. It was a matter, as the British ministers frankly confessed, purely of experiment, and its continuance was to depend upon a steady view of the conduct and principles of the government of France. After a war of so long duration as that which the French revolution gave birth to, and so many animosities as that great civil convulsion excited, it was not to be expected that the two nations should at once harmonize together. Peace was signed, and an intercourse renewed between them, but, still, it was an intercourse of restraint on the one part, and of suspicion on the other. There was no hostility, but there was no cordial union.

In a question where our own inter-

ests and feelings are so immediately concerned, it is not easy to say where the fault lay, but this may be affirmed, without much fear of contradiction, that no war was ever entered into on the part of Great Britain, in which she appeared as the aggressor, which had so decisively the sanction of a vast majority of the people as the present.

The conduct of the government of France, from the peace of Amiens, had been, to say the best of it, equivocal; but a serious insult was offered to the high spirit and independence of the British nation, when it was proposed that the British government should take under its immediate cognizance the freedom of the British press, and prevent the appearance of publications offensive to the government of France. This was one of the points more particularly insisted upon in the discussions of this memorable





MEMOIRS
OF THE
PRINCE OF WALES.
VOL. III.

and to render us determined, with one hand and heart, to oppose any aggressions that might be made upon us.—If that aggression was made, his honourable friend (Mr. Fox) would, he was sure, agree with him, that we ought to meet it with a spirit worthy of these islands; and that we ought to meet it with a conviction of the truth of this assertion, that the country which had achieved such greatness had no retreat in littleness; that if we could be content to abandon every thing, we should find no safety in poverty, no security in abject submission. Finally, that we ought to meet it with a fixed determination to perish in the same grave with the honour and independence of the country.

In the upper house, about the same time, lord Moira, in a most animated address, called the attention of their lordships to the situation of the country.

He was not for speaking of Bonaparte, he said, in such terms of gentleness and moderation as other noble lords had used. What was there in the procedure of the first consul that could recommend such forbearance? He saw no motive for further compliment to this new Hannibal, who had, on the altars of his inordinate ambition, sworn unextinguishable enmity to this country. Were he to speak of the first consul in any other relation than that which he had assumed to the concerns of Britain, he would speak of him with the deference befitting his high station, and with the respect which his wonderful actions must demand. But when he wilfully opposed himself to the welfare of these realms, nay, openly struck at the root of their prosperity, the language of complacency on that head was ill timed and mischievous.—If, said his Lordship, you would avert war, you

must shew yourselves on a level with the exigency. You must in the immortal language of Shakespeare,

Be stirring as the time; be fire with fire;
Threaten the Threat'ners, and out face the brow
Of bragging honour——

not from any false ostentation of courage, but to insure this solid, this inappreciable advantage, which the bard truly indicated would be the result :

——— So shall inferior eyes,
That borrow their behaviour from the great,
Grow great by your example, and put on
The useful spirit of resolution !

It is impossible adequately to describe the effects produced out of doors on the minds of the people by these energetic harangues; and their influence was the greater when it was considered that lord Moira and Mr. Sheridan were the particular friends of the

Prince of Wales, and consequently that their sentiments might be supposed not to be very dissimilar from those of his Royal Highness himself.

On the actual renewal of the hostilities, never did the national spirit soar to a higher pitch of proud and dignified patriotism. Volunteer associations were formed with incredible industry in all parts of the country, and persons of the highest rank did not think it beneath them to serve as private men*. Im-

* Some of his majesty's ministers, at the period alluded to, were privates in the corps called the Royal Pimlico volunteers. The Duke of Clarence commanded a corps raised in the neighbourhood of Bushy Park, called the Royal Spelthorn Legion. The speech which his Royal Highness made to them on their first assembling deserves to be preserved for its manly and patriotic simplicity.—
“*My friends and neighbours,*” said his Royal Highness, *where-ever our duty calls us, I will go with you; fight in your ranks, and never return home without you.*—On the 4th of December

mense contributions of money were, at the same time, raised, to reward the brave men who might distinguish themselves in the service of their coun-

1803, the Prince of Wales presented a pair of colours to this corps (on Ashford Common) and addressed them in the following words.

“ Volunteers !

“ It is with the highest satisfaction I have taken upon myself the honourable office of presenting the Royal Spelthorn Legion this day with their colours. When I view so respectable a Corps, and consider the high character attached to it, it would be superfluous in me to point out those duties and obligations which have been so fully exemplified in its conduct. When you behold these colours (taking them in his hand), they will remind you of the common cause in which you are engaged, for your king, your country, your religion, your laws, your property, your children, and your wives, nay, in short, every thing dear to Englishmen. Accept then this pledge, this sacred pledge, which you will take care to defend with your last drop of blood, and only resign with your *lives.*”

try, or alleviate the sufferings of those who might bleed in her defence. In a word, nothing could exceed the patriotic ardour displayed by all ranks upon the occasion.

But, "amidst the general note of preparation," some surprise was excited in the public mind, that at a crisis of such moment, involving the very fate of the country, no station, equal to his prominent rank in the state, was assigned to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. He was only a colonel of dragoons, while military commands of the highest importance were bestowed on the junior branches of the Royal Family. The public had not time sufficient to indulge in much speculation on this apparent backwardness of the Heir Apparent, when the following correspondence was published by permission of his Royal Highness, in order to do away the ill impression which the

seeming singularity of his conduct was likely to produce, as well as to vindicate his reputation in the eyes of his country and of Europe at large.

The first letter in this interesting correspondence was from the Prince of Wales to Mr. Addington.

Carleton House, July 18, 1803.

“ Sir,

“ The subject on which I address you presses so heavily on my mind, and daily acquires such additional importance, that, notwithstanding my wish to avoid any interference with the disposition made by his Majesty’s ministers, I find it impossible to withhold or delay an explicit statement of my feelings, to which I would direct your most serious considerations.

“ When it was officially communicated to parliament that the avowed object of the enemy was a descent on *our kingdoms*, the question became so

obvious, that the circumstances of the times required the voluntary tender of personal services; when parliament, in consequence of this representation, agreed to extraordinary measures for the defence of these realms alone, it was evident the danger was not believed dubious or remote. Animated by the same spirit which pervaded the nation at large, conscious of the duties which I owed to his Majesty and the country, I seized the earliest opportunity to express my desire of undertaking the responsibility of a military command: I neither did, nor do presume on supposed talents as entitling me to such an appointment. I am aware I do not possess the experience of actual warfare; at the same time I cannot regard myself as totally unqualified or deficient in military science, since I have long made the service my particular study. My chief pretensions were founded on a

sense of those advantages which my example might produce to the state, by exciting the loyal energies of the nation, and a knowledge of those expectations which the public had a right to form as to the personal exertion of their princes at a moment like the present. The more elevated my situation, in so much the efforts of zeal became necessarily greater ; and I confess, that if duty has not been so paramount, a reflection on the splendid achievements of my predecessors would have excited in me the spirit of emulation ; when, however, in addition to such recollections, the nature of the contest in which we are about to engage was impressed on my consideration, I should, indeed, have been devoid of every virtuous sentiment, if I felt no reluctance in remaining a passive spectator of armaments, which have for their object the very *existence* of the British empire.

“ Thus was I influenced to make my offer of service, and I did hope that his Majesty’s ministers would have attached to it more value. But when I find that, from some unknown cause, my appointment seems to remain so long undetermined; when I feel myself exposed to the obloquy of being regarded by the country of passing my time indifferent to the events which menace, and insensible to the call of patriotism, much more of glory, it then becomes me to examine my rights, and to remind his Majesty’s ministers that the claim which I have advanced is strictly constitutional, and justified by precedent; and that in the present situation of Europe, to deny my exercising it is fatal to my own immediate honour, and the future interests of the crown.

“ I can never forget that I have solemn obligations imposed on me by my birth, and that I should ever show my-

self foremost in contributing to the preservation of the country. The time is arrived when I may prove myself sensible of the duties of my situation, and of evincing my devotion to that sovereign, who by nature as well as public worth commands my most affectionate attachment.

“ I repeat, that I should be sorry to embarrass the government at any time, most particularly at such a crisis: but since no event in my future life can compensate me for the misfortune of not participating in the honours and dangers that await the brave men destined to oppose an invading enemy, I cannot forego the earnest renewal of my application.

“ All I solicit is a more ostensible situation than that in which I am at present placed; for situated as I am, a mere colonel of a regiment, the major *general* commanding the brigade, of

which such regiment must form a part, would justly expect and receive the full credit of pre-arrangement and successful enterprize.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Very sincerely yours,

(signed) G. P.”

Right hon. Henry Addington,

&c. &c. &c.

This letter producing no immediate reply, the Prince of Wales addressed the following note to Mr. Addington.

July 26, 1803.

“ A week has now elapsed since the Prince of Wales transmitted to Mr. Addington a letter on a subject of the highest importance. Though he cannot anticipate a refusal to so reasonable a demand, he must still express some surprize, that a communication of such a nature should have remained so long unanswered.

“ *When the Prince of Wales desired*

to be placed in a situation, which might enable him to show to the people of England, an example of zeal, fidelity and devotion to his sovereign, he naturally thought, that he was only fulfilling his appropriate duty as the first subject of the realm, in which, as it has pleased Providence to cause him to be born, so he is determined to maintain himself, by all those honourable exertions which the exigencies of these critical times peculiarly demand. The motives of his conduct cannot be misconceived or misrepresented; he has at a moment when every thing is at stake that is dear and sacred to him, and to the nation, asked to be advanced in military rank, because he may have a birth-right to fight for, the throne of his father to defend, the glory of the people of England to uphold, which is dearer to him than life, which has yet remained unsullied under the princes of the house

of Brunswick, and which, he trusts, will be transmitted pure and unsullied to the latest generations. Animated by such sentiments, he has naturally desired to be placed in a situation where he can act according to the feelings of his heart and the dictates of his conscience.

In making the offer, in again repeating it, the Prince of Wales considers, that he has only performed his duty to himself, to the state, to the King, and to Europe, whose fate may be involved in the issue of this contest ; if this tender of his services is rejected, he shall ever lament that all his efforts have been fruitless, and that he has been deprived of making those exertions, which the circumstances of the empire, his own inclinations, and his early and long attention to military affairs, would have rendered so peculiarly grateful to himself, and, he trusts, not entirely useless to the public. ”

To this communication the chancellor of the exchequer returned the following answer.

Downing Street, July 27, 1803.

“ Upon receiving the letter with which Mr. Addington was last week honored by the Prince of Wales, he assured his Royal Highness, that it should be immediately laid before the King. A communication was afterwards made to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in a mode and through a channel, which Mr. Addington humbly hoped his Royal Highness would approve. Mr. Addington, however, now finds it to be incumbent upon him, in consequence of the expectation which has been expressed by his Royal Highness, to state, that his Majesty, on being informed of the sentiments and wishes of the Prince of Wales, applauded in the strongest manner, the feelings by which his Royal Highness is actuated; but referred,

nevertheless, to the answers which his Majesty had judged it necessary to return to similar representations, and which, in obedience to the commands of his Royal Highness, had been laid before his Majesty on a former occasion."

The Prince of Wales then desired Mr. Addington to lay his note of the 26th of July before the King, which was accordingly done, and his Royal Highness received from the minister the following reply.

Downing Street, August 1, 1803.

" Sir,

In obedience to the commands of your Royal Highness, I laid before his Majesty the letter dated the 26th of July, with which your Royal Highness honoured me; and I have it in command from his Majesty to acquaint your Royal Highness, that " the King

had referred Mr. Addington to the orders he had before given him, with the addition, that the King's opinion being fixed, he desired that no further mention should be made to him upon the subject.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ With every sentiment of respect

“ and deference,

“ Sir,

“ Your Royal Highness's

“ Most humble Servant,

(Signed) “ HENRY ADDINGTON.”

On receiving this communication, the following *admirable* letter was addressed by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the King:

“ Sir,

“ A correspondence has taken place between Mr. Addington and myself, on a subject which deeply involves my

honour and character. The answers which I have received from that gentleman, the communication which he has made to the House of Commons, leave me no hope but in appeal to the justice of your Majesty. I make that appeal with confidence, because I feel that you are my natural advocate, and with the sanguine hope that the ears of an affectionate father may still be opened to the applications of a dutiful son.

“ I ask to be allowed to display the best energies of my character ; to shed the last drop of my blood in support of your Majesty’s person, crown, and dignity ; for this is not a war for empire, glory, or dominion, but for existence. In this contest, the lowest and humblest of your Majesty’s subjects have been called on ; it would therefore little become me, who am the *first*, and who stand at the *very* footstool of the throne,

to remain a tame, an idle, and lifeless spectator of the mischiefs which threaten us, unconscious of the dangers which surround us, and indifferent to the consequences which may follow. Hanover is lost—England is menaced with invasion—Ireland is in rebellion—Europe is at the foot of France. At such a moment the Prince of Wales, yielding to none of your servants in zeal and devotion—to none of your subjects in duty—to none of your children in tenderness and affection—presumes to approach you, and again to repeat those offers which he has already made through your Majesty's minister. A feeling of honest ambition, a sense of what I owe to myself and to my family—and, above all, the fear of sinking in the estimation of that gallant army, which may be the support of your Majesty's crown and my best hope *hereafter*, command me to persevere

and to assure your Majesty, with all humility and respect, that, conscious of the justice of my claim, no human power can ever induce me to relinquish it.

“ Allow me to say, Sir, that I am bound to adopt this line of conduct by every motive dear to me as a man, and sacred to me as a Prince. Ought I not to come forward in a moment of unexampled difficulty and danger? Ought I not to share in the glory of the victory, when I have every thing to lose by defeat? The highest places in your Majesty’s service are filled by the younger branches of the Royal Family: to me alone no place is assigned. I am not thought worthy to be the junior major general of your army. If I could submit in silence to such indignities, I should indeed deserve such treatment, and prove to the satisfaction of your enemies, and my

own, that I am entirely incapable of those exertions which my birth and these circumstances of the times peculiarly call for. Standing so near the throne, when I am debased, the cause of royalty is wounded; I cannot sink in the public opinion, without the participation of your Majesty in my degradation. . Therefore every motive of private feeling and of public duty induce me to implore your Majesty to review your decision, and to place me in that situation, which my birth, the duties of my station, the example of my predecessors, and the expectations of the people of England entitle me to claim.

“ Should I be disappointed in the hope which I have formed, should this last appeal to the justice of my sovereign, and to the affection of my father, fail of success, I shall lament in silent

submission his determination ; but Europe, the world, and posterity, must judge between us.

“ I have done my duty ; my conscience acquits me ; my reason tells me that I was perfectly justified in the request which I have made, because no reasonable arguments have ever been adduced in answer to my pretensions. The precedents in our history are in my favour : but if they were not, the times in which we live, and especially the exigencies of the present moment, require us to become an example to our posterity.

“ No other cause of refusal has or can be assigned, except that it is the will of your Majesty. To that will and pleasure I bow with every degree of humility and resignation ; but I can never cease to complain of the severity which has been exercised against me,

and the injustice I have suffered, till I cease to exist.

“ I have the honour

“ To subscribe myself,

“ With all possible devotion,

“ Your Majesty’s

“ Most dutiful and affectionate

“ Son and subject,

(Signed)

G. P.”

Brighthelmston, Aug. 6. 1803.

Letter from the King.

“ My dear Son,

“ Though I applaud your zeal and spirit, of which, I trust, no one can suppose any of my family wanting, yet, considering the repeated declarations I have made of my determination on your former applications to the same purpose, I had flattered myself to have heard no farther on the subject.

“ Should the implacable enemy so far succeed as to land, you will have

an opportunity of shewing your zeal at the head of your regiment; it will be the duty of every man to stand forward on such an occasion, and I shall certainly think it mine to set an example, in defence of every thing that is dear to me, and to my people.

“ I ever remain,

“ My dear Son,

“ Your most affectionate father,

(Signed)

GEORGE R.”

Windsor, August 7, 1803.

The Prince of Wales replied to this communication in the following words.

Brighthelmstone, August 23, 1803.

Sir,

“ I have delayed thus long an answer to the letter which your Majesty did me the honour to write, from the wish to refer to a former correspondence which took place between us in

the year 1798. Those letters were mislaid, and some days elapsed before I could discover them. They have since been found. Allow me then, Sir, to recal to your recollection the expressions you were then graciously pleased to use, and which I once before took the liberty of reminding you of, when I solicited foreign service, upon my first entering into the army. They were, Sir, that your Majesty did not then see the opportunity for it, but if any thing was to arise at home, “ I ought to be first and foremost.” There cannot be a stronger expression in the English language, or one more consonant to the feelings which animate my heart. In this I agree most perfectly with your Majesty—“ *I ought to be first and foremost.*” It is the place which my birth assigns me—which Europe—which the English nation—expect me to fill—and which the for-

mer assurances of your Majesty might naturally have led me to hope I should occupy. After such a declaration, I could hardly expect to be told that my place was at the head of a regiment of dragoons.

“ I understand from your Majesty, that it is your intention, Sir, in pursuance of that noble example which you have shewn during the course of your reign, to place yourself at the head of the people of England. My next brother, the duke of York, commands the army; the younger branches of my family are either generals, or lieutenant-generals; and I, who am Prince of Wales, am to remain colonel of dragoons. There is something so humiliating in the contrast, that those who are at a distance, would either doubt the reality, or suppose that to be my fault which is only my misfortune.

“ *Who could imagine, that I, who*

am the oldest colonel in the service, had asked for the rank of a general officer in the army of the King, my father, and that it had been refused me ?

“ I am sorry, much more than sorry, to be obliged to break in upon your leisure, and to trespass thus, a second time, on the attention of your Majesty ; but I have, Sir, an interest in my character more valuable to me than the throne, and dearer, far dearer to me than life. I am called upon by that interest to persevere, and pledge myself never to desist, till I receive that satisfaction, which the justice of my claim leads me to expect.

“ In these unhappy times, the world, Sir, examines the conduct of princes with a jealous, a scrutinizing, a malignant eye. No man is more aware than I am of the existence of such a disposition, and no man is therefore more

determined to place himself above all suspicion.

“ In desiring to be placed in a forward situation, I have performed one duty to the people of England ; I must now perform another, and humbly supplicate your Majesty to assign those reasons which have induced you to refuse a request which appears to me and to the world, so reasonable and so rational.

“ I must again repeat my concern, that I am obliged to continue a correspondence which I fear is not so grateful to your Majesty as I could wish. I have examined my own heart—I am convinced of the justice of my cause—of the purity of my motives. Reason and honour forbid me to yield : where no reason is alleged, I am justified in the conclusion that none can be given.

“ In this candid exposition of the feelings *which have agitated and de-*

pressed my wounded mind, I hope no expressions have escaped me which can be construed to mean the slightest disrespect to your Majesty. I most solemnly disavow any such intention ; but the circumstances of the times—the danger of invasion, the appeal which has been made to all your subjects, oblige me to recollect what I owe to my own honour and to my own character, and to state to your Majesty with plainness, truth, and candour, but with all the submission of a subject and the duty of an affectionate Son, the injuries under which I labour, and which it is in the power of your Majesty alone at one moment to redress.

“ It is with sentiments of the profoundest veneration and respect that I have the honour to subscribe myself,

“ Your Majesty’s most dutiful,

“ And most affectionate

“ Son and subject,

(Signed)

G. P.”

A correspondence was subsequently entered into between the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, on the same subject, and the following letters passed between their Royal Highnesses on the occasion.

Brighton, Oct. 2, 1803.

“ My dear Brother,

“ By last night's Gazette, which I have this moment received, I perceive that an extensive promotion has taken place in the army, wherein my pretensions are not noticed; a circumstance which, whatever may have happened on other occasions, it is impossible for me to pass by, at this momentous crisis, without observation.

“ My standing in the army, according to the most ordinary routine of promotion, had it been followed up, would have placed me either at the

bottom of the list of generals, or at the head of the list of lieutenant-generals. When the junior branches of my family are promoted to the highest military situations, my birth, according to the distinctions usually conferred on it, should have placed me first on that list.

“ I hope you know me too well to imagine, that idle, inactive rank is in my view; much less is the direction and patronage of the military departments an object which suits my place in the state; or my inclinations: but, in a moment when the danger of the country is thought by government so urgent as to call forth the energy of every arm in its defence, I cannot but feel myself degraded; both as a prince and a soldier, if I am not allowed to take a forward and distinguished part in the defence of that empire and

crown, of the glory, prosperity, and even existence of that people, in all which mine is the greatest stake.

“ To be told I may display this zeal solely and simply at the head of my regiment, is a *degrading mockery*.

“ If that be the only situation allotted me, I shall certainly do my duty, as others will; but the considerations to which I have already alluded, entitle me to expect, and bind me every way to require, a situation more correspondent to the dignity of my own character, and to the public expectation. It is for the sake of tendering my services in a way more formal and official than I have before pursued, that I address this to you, my dear brother, as the commander in chief, by whose counsels the constitution presumes that the military department is administered.

“ If those who have the honour to

advise his Majesty on this occasion, shall deem my pretensions, among those of all the royal family, to be the only one fit to be rejected and disdained, I may at least hope, as a debt of justice and honour, to have it explained, that I am laid by in virtue of that judgment, and not in consequence of any omission, or want of energy on my part.

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

G. P. W."

His Royal Highness the

Duke of York, &c.

Reply of the Duke of York.

Horse-Guards, Oct. 6, 1803.

" Dearest Brother,

" Nothing but an extraordinary press of business would have prevented me from acknowledging sooner your letter of the 2d instant, which I received while at Oatlands on Monday evening.

“ I trust that you are too well acquainted with my affection for you, which has existed since our most tender years, not to be assured of the satisfaction I have felt, and ever must feel, in forwarding, when in my power, every desire or object of yours ; and therefore will believe how much I must regret the impossibility there is, upon the present occasion, of my executing your wishes of laying the representation contained in your letter before his Majesty.

“ Suffer me, my dearest brother, as the only answer that I can properly give you, to recal to your memory what passed upon the same subject soon after his Majesty was graciously pleased to place me at the head of the army ; and I have no doubt, that with your usual candour, you will yourself see the absolute necessity of my declining it.

“ In the year 1795, upon a general promotion taking place, at your instance I delivered a letter from you to his Majesty, urging your pretensions to promotion in the army; to which his Majesty was pleased to answer, that, before ever he had appointed you to the command of the 10th light dragoons, he had caused it to be fully explained to you what his sentiments were with respect to a Prince of Wales entering into the army, and the public grounds upon which he could never admit of your considering it as a profession, or of your being promoted in the service. And his Majesty, at the same time, added *his positive commands and injunctions* to me, never to mention this subject again to him, and to decline being the bearer of any application of the same nature, should it be proposed to me; which message I was, of course, under the necessity of

delivering to you, and have constantly made it the rule of my conduct ever since; and indeed, I have ever considered it as one of the greatest proofs of affection and consideration towards me, on the part of his Majesty, that he never allowed me to become a party in this business. Having thus stated to you, fairly and candidly, what has passed, I must trust you will see that there can be no ground for the apprehension expressed in the latter part of your letter, that any slur can attach to your character as an officer—particularly as I recollect your mentioning to me yourself on the day on which you received the notification of your appointment to the 10th light dragoons, the explanation and condition attached to it by his Majesty; and, therefore, surely you must be satisfied that your not being advanced in military rank, proceeds entirely from his Majesty's

sentiments respecting the high rank you hold in the state, and not from any impression unfavourable to you. Believe me ever, with the greatest truth,

“ Dearest Brother,

“ Your most affectionate Brother,

(Signed)

“ FREDERICK.”

To His Royal Highness the
Prince of Wales.

Brighton, Oct. 9, 1803.

“ My dear Brother,

“ I have taken two days to consider the contents of your letter of the 6th inst. in order to be as accurate as possible in my answer, which must account to you for its being longer perhaps than I intended, or I could have wished.

“ I confide entirely in the personal kindness and affection expressed in your letter; and am, for that reason, the more unwilling to trouble you again on a painful subject, in which you are not

free to act, as your inclination I am sure would lead you. But as it is not at all improbable, that every part of this transaction may be publicly canvassed hereafter, it is of the utmost importance to my honour, without which I can have no happiness, that my conduct in it shall be fairly represented, and correctly understood. When I made a tender of my services to his Majesty's ministers, it was with a just and natural expectation that my offer would have been accepted in the way in which alone it could have been most beneficial to my country, or creditable to myself; or, if that failed, that at least (in justice to me) the reasons for a refusal would have been distinctly stated; so that the nation might be satisfied that nothing had been omitted on my part, and enabled to judge of the validity of the reasons assigned for such a refusal. In the first instance, I

was referred to his Majesty's will and pleasure ; and now I am informed by your letter, that before ' he had appointed me to the command of the 10th light dragoons, he had caused it to be fully explained to me what his sentiments were with respect to a Prince of Wales entering into the army.'

“ It is impossible, my dear brother, that I should know all that passed between the King and you ; but I perfectly recollect the statement you made of the conversation you had with his Majesty, and which strictly corresponds with that in your letter now before me. But I must, at the same time, recall to your memory my positive denial, at that time, of any condition or stipulation having been made upon my first coming into the army ; and I am in possession of full and complete documents, which prove that no terms whatever were then proposed, at least

to me, whatever might have been the intention: and the communications which I have found it necessary subsequently to make, have ever disclaimed the existence of such a compromise at any period, as nothing could be more averse to my nature, or more remote from my mind.

“ As to the conversation you quote in 1796, (when the King was pleased to appoint me to succeed Sir William Pitt) I have not the most slight recollection of its having taken place between us. My dear brother, if your date is right, you must be mistaken in your exact terms, or at least in the conclusion you draw from it; for, in the intimacy and familiarity of private conversation, it is not at all unlikely that I should have remembered the communication you made me the year

before ; but that I should have acquiesced in, or referred to, a compromise which I never made, is utterly impossible.

“ Neither in his Majesty’s letter to me, nor in the correspondence with Mr. Addington (of which you may not be fully informed), is there one word, or the most distant allusion to the condition stated in your letter; and even if I had accepted the command of a regiment on such terms, my acquiescence could only have relation to the ordinary situation of the country, and not to a case so completely out of all contemplation at that time, as the probable or projected invasion of this kingdom by a foreign force sufficient to bring its safety into question. When the King is pleased to tell me, ‘ that, should the enemy land, he shall think it his duty to set an example in de-

fence of the country ;' that is, to expose the only life which for the public welfare, ought not to be hazarded, I respect and admire the principles which dictate that resolution : and as my heart glows with the same sentiments, I wish to partake in the same danger ; that is, with dignity and effect. Whenever his Majesty appears as King, he acts and commands ; you are commander in chief ; others of my family are high in military stations ; and even by the last brevet, a considerable number of junior officers are put over me. In all these arrangements, the Prince of Wales alone, whose interest in the event yields to none but that of the King, is disregarded, omitted ; his services rejected : so that, in fact, he has no post or station whatsoever, in a contest on which the fate of the crown and the kingdom may depend.

“ I do not, my dear brother, wonder, that in the hurry of your present occupation, these considerations should have been overlooked. They are now in your view, and I think, cannot fail to make a due impression.

“ As to the rest, with every degree of esteem possible for your judgment of what is due to a soldier's honour, I must be the guardian of mine to the utmost of my power,

&c. &c.

(Signed)

“ G. P.”

His Royal Highness the
Duke of York.

Horse Guards, Oct. 11, 1803.

“ My dear Brother,

“ I have this moment, upon my arrival in town, found your letter, and lose no time in answering that part of it which appears to me highly necessary, should be clearly understood. In-

deed, my dear brother, you must give me leave to repeat to you, that, upon the fullest consideration, I perfectly recollect your having yourself told me at Carlton-house, in the year 1793, on the day on which you was informed of his Majesty's having acquiesced in your request of being appointed to the command of the 10th regiment of light dragoons, of which Sir William Pitt was then colonel, the message and condition which was delivered to you from his Majesty; and which his Majesty repeated to me, in the year 1795, as mentioned in my letter of Thursday last. And I have the fullest reason to know, that there are others, to whom, at that time, you mentioned the same circumstance; nor have I the least recollection of your having denied it to me, when I delivered to you the King's answer; as I should certainly

have felt it incumbent upon me to recal to your memory what you had told me yourself in the year 1793.

“ No conversation whatever passed between us, as you justly remark, in the year 1796, when Sir William Pitt was promoted to the King’s dragoon guards, which was done in consequence of what was arranged in 1795, upon your first appointment to the 10th light dragoons ; and I conceive, that your mentioning in your letter my having stated a conversation to have passed between us in 1798, must have arisen from some misapprehension, as I do not find *that* year ever adverted to in my letter.

“ I have thought it due to us both, my dear brother, thus fully to reply to those parts of your letter in which you appear to have mistaken mine ; but as I am totally unacquainted with the correspondence which has taken place

upon this subject, I must decline entering any further into it.

“ I remain ever, my dear Brother,

“ With the greatest truth,

“ Your most affectionate Brother,

(Signed)

“ FREDERICK.”

His Royal Highness the

Prince of Wales.

Brighton, Oct. 22, 1803.

“ My dear Brother,

“ By my replying to your letter of the 6th instnt, which contained no sort of answer to mine of the 2d, we have fallen into a very frivolous altercation upon a topic which is quite foreign to the present purpose. Indeed, the whole importance of it lies in a seeming contradiction in the statement of a fact, which is unpleasant even upon the idlest occasion.

“ I meant to assert, that no previous condition to forego all pretensions

to ulterior rank, under any circumstances, had been imposed upon me, or even submitted to me, in any shape whatsoever, on my first coming into the service ; and with as much confidence as can be used in maintaining a negative, I repeat that assertion.

“ When I first became acquainted with his Majesty’s purpose to withhold from me further advancement, it is impossible to recollect ; but that it was so early as the year 1793, I do not remember ; and, if your expressions were less positive, I should add, nor believe : but I certainly knew it, as you well knew, in 1795, and possibly before.—

We were then engaged in war, therefore I could not think of resigning my regiment, if under other circumstances I had been disposed to do so ; but, in truth, my rank in the nation made military rank, in ordinary times, a matter of little consequence, except to my

own private feelings. This sentiment I conveyed to you in my letter of the 2d, saying expressly that *mere idle inactive* rank was in no sort my object; but upon the prospect of an emergency when the King was to take the field, and the spirit of every Briton was roused to exertion, the place which I occupy in the nation made it indispensable to demand a post correspondent to that place, and to the public expectation. This sentiment I have the happiness to be assured, in a letter on this occasion, made a strong impression upon the mind, and commanded the respect and admiration of one very high in government.

“ The only purpose of this letter, my dear brother, is to explain, since that is necessary, that my former ones meant not to give you the trouble of interceding as my advocate for mere

rank in the army. Urging further my other more important claims upon government, would be vainly addressed to any person, who can really think that a former refusal of mere rank, under circumstances so widely different, or the most express waving of such pretensions, if that had been the case, furnishes the slightest colour for the answer I have received to the tenders I have now made of my services.

“ Your department, my dear brother, was meant, if I must repeat it, simply as a channel to convey that tender to government, and to obtain either their attention to it, or their avowed refusal, &c.

(Signed)

“ G. P.”

His Royal Highness the
Duke of York, &c,

Horse Guards, Oct. 13, 1803.

“ Dear Brother,

“ I have received your letter this morning, and am sorry to find that you think that I have misconceived the meaning of your first letter, the whole tenor of which, and the military promotion which gave rise to it, led me naturally to suppose your desire was, that I should apply to his Majesty, in my official capacity, to give you military rank, to which might be attached the idea of subsequent command.

“ That I found myself under the necessity of declining, in obedience to his Majesty’s pointed orders, as I explained to you in my letter of the 16th instant. But, from your letter of to-day, I am to understand that your object is *not* military rank, but that a post should be allotted to you, upon the present emergency, suitable to your situation *in the state*.

“ This I conceive to be purely a political consideration, and as such totally out of my department ; and as I have most carefully avoided, at all times, and under all circumstances, ever interfering in any political points, I must hope that you will not call upon me to deviate from the principles by which I have been invariably governed.

“ Believe me, my dear Brother,

“ Your most affectionate Brother,

(Signed)

“ FREDERICK.”

His Royal Highness the
Prince of Wales.

Carlton House, Oct. 14, 1803.

“ My dear Brother,

“ It cannot but be painful to me to be reduced to the necessity of farther explanation on the subject which it was my earnest wish to have closed, and which was of so clear and distinct a nature, as, in my humble judgment,

to have precluded the possibility of either doubt or misunderstanding.

“ Surely there must some strange fatality obscure my language in statement, or leave me somewhat deficient in the powers of explanation, when it can lead your mind, my dear brother, to such a palpable misconstruction (for far be it from me to fancy it wilful) of my meaning as to suppose, for a moment, I had unconnected my object with *efficient military rank*, and transferred it entirely to the view of a *political station*, when you venture to tell me, ‘ my object is not military rank, but that a post should be allotted to me, upon the present emergency, suitable to my situation in the state.’— Upon what ground you can hazard such an assertion, or upon what principles you can draw such an inference, I am utterly at a loss to determine; for I defy the skilful logician, in torturing the English

language, to apply with *fairness* such a construction of any word or phrase of mine, contained in any one of the letters I have ever written on this, *to me*, most interesting subject. I call upon you to reperuse the correspondence. In my letter of the 2d instant, I told you *unequivocally* that I hoped you knew me too well to imagine that *idle inactive* rank was in my view; and that sentiment, I beg you carefully to observe, I have in no instance whatever for one single moment relinquished or departed from.

“ Giving, as I did, all the considerations of my heart to the delicacy and difficulties of your situation, nothing could have been more repugnant to my thoughts, or to my disposition, than to have imposed upon you, my dear brother, either in your capacity as commander in chief, or in the near *relationship* which subsists between us,

the task, much less the expectation, of causing you to risk any displeasure from his Majesty, by disobeying in *any* degree *h's* commands, although they were even to militate against myself. But, with the impulse of my feelings towards you, and quickly conceiving what friendship and affection may be capable of, I did not, I own, think it entirely impossible, that you might, considering the magnitude and importance which the object carries with it, have officially advanced my wishes, as a matter of propriety, to *military rank and subsequent command*, through his Majesty's ministers, for that direct purpose; especially when the honour of my character and my future fame in life were so deeply involved in the consideration. For, I must here again *emphatically repeat*, that *idle inactive rank* was never in my view; and that *military rank, with its consequent command, was NEVER out of it.*

“ Feeling how useless, as well as ungracious, controversy is, upon every occasion, and feeling how fatally it operates upon human friendship, I must entreat that our correspondence on this subject shall cease here; for nothing could be more distressing to me, than to prolong a topic, on which it is now clear to me, my dear brother, that you and I can never agree, &c. &c.

(Signed)

“ G. P.”

His Royal Highness the
Duke of York.

*Copy of a Letter from the Rt. Hon.
Henry Addington.*

Dated Richmond Park, Oct. 23, 1803.

“ Sir,

“ In consequence of some intelligence which has reached me; I am impelled by a sense of duty to your Royal Highness, and to the public, to express an earnest and anxious hope, that

you may be induced to postpone your return to Brighton until I shall have had an opportunity of making further inquiries, and of stating the results of them to your Royal Highness.

“ I have the honor to be, with the utmost deference and respect, Sir,

“ Your Royal Highness’s most faithful,

“ And most humble servant,

(Signed) “ HENRY ADDINGTON.”

The Prince of Wales.

Answer.

Carlton House, Oct. 24, 1803.

“ Sir,

“ By your grounding your letter to me upon intelligence which has just reached you, I apprehend that you allude to information which leads you to expect some immediate attempt from the enemy. My wish to accommodate myself to any thing which you represent as material to the public service,

would of course make me desirous to comply with your request ; but if there be any reason to imagine that invasion will take place directly, I am bound by the King's precise order, and by that honest zeal which if not allowed any fitter sphere for its action, to hasten instantly to my regiment. If I learn that my construction of the word intelligence be right, I must deem it necessary to repair to Brighton immediately. &c. &c.

(Signed)

“ G. P.”*

Rt. Hon. Henry Addington.

* An eminent political writer, in many of whose opinions we concur, and to whose general literary services this country owes inestimable obligations, (we mean the author of the “ Weekly Political Register”) speaking of the refusal to grant the Prince of Wales a military command equivalent to his rank, says, “ To *refuse* the Prince a command, while the rest of his Royal Brothers are employed, is to make a distinction so invidious, is to cast such a slur on the character and *rank of his Royal Highness*, is, in effect, to give

Such was the correspondence that took place between his Royal Highness

such a stab to the monarchy, that no person, who does not wish to see the destruction of that monarchy, or, at least, who is not perfectly indifferent as to its existence, can possibly hear of this refusal, without feeling the utmost indignation at the conduct of the Ministers, to whom, and to whom *alone*, it can, or ought to be ascribed. That it is expedient, that the Heir Apparent to the throne should stand high in the opinions of the people, is, we imagine, the position, which even the Ministers themselves will hardly attempt to deny; and, disguise the fact how we may, it is absolutely impossible, that, while the transaction of which we are now speaking, remains enveloped in darkness, the people of this country, whose habit it is to think for themselves, should not entertain *doubts* respecting the character and views of their future sovereign, doubts not less dangerous to the present safety of the realm, than injurious to his Royal Highness. *By publishing the correspondence*, therefore, the danger would be removed, and the injury palliated, though by no means redressed.—It has been officially declared, that his Royal Highness has offered his services as a general in the army, employed for the defence of the country, *for the defence of the people, over whom he is to reign, and whose peace and happiness and*

the Prince of Wales, Mr. Addington,
the minister of the day, his Majesty,

safety must, in a great degree, depend upon his wisdom and his courage. All that the people know of, as the consequence of this offer, is, that it has been *rejected*. They are well aware, that his Royal Highness has been a military man from his youth, they perceive his Royal Brothers and Cousin invested with high military commands, and they, moreover, see the latter sent to infuse, by *his* presence, a military spirit into the people of that principality from which his Royal Highness takes his title ! And, can it be supposed, that the people do not wish to know the cause of this distinction ? Had the slanders of the king-killing saints reduced the nation to that state of indifference, gloomy indeed would be the prospect before us ! As to the objection founded on the field-marshalship of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, that might have been obviated by placing the Prince at the head of the irregular army, a measure which would, in every point of view, have been attended with immense advantage to the service. Besides, if there had still been an objection to assigning the Prince a command in this island, what objection could there be, or can there now be, to giving him the military or civil command in

and his Royal Highness the Duke of York, commander in chief. Before we

Ireland, where there is every reason to hope and believe, that his presence alone would give greater security to the country, than an army of an hundred thousand men, and where, without some such step, it is greatly to be feared, that tranquillity will never be restored?—No satisfactory reason can, therefore, be conceived, why, at this time of universal zeal and exertion, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales should be condemned to an irksome, not to say disgraceful inactivity; and the nation demands from the Ministers, and beseeches from his Royal Highness, that explanation which can be afforded only by the correspondence which has, on this subject taken place between them. For want of an explanation of the truth, falsehoods are circulating in every direction; falsehoods the most atrocious in themselves, and of a tendency the most dangerous. We shall not dwell upon the insinuations which have been made as to the “*manner*,” in which the Prince tendered his services, the “*exorbitant demands*” with which his offer was clogged, the “*interested*” and “*aspiring*” views, apparent in his conduct. These wicked and base insinuations will produce little

proceed to make any observations upon it, which we shall feel it our duty af-

effect upon well-informed persons ; but, then, how few are there who answer that description ! The Minister did, indeed, condescend to acknowledge, that the Prince's offer was made in a " most handsome and gallant manner ;" but, it is understood, in the world, that these are words of course ; and, besides, their effect was instantly destroyed by the mysterious close of the Minister's declaration, from which the natural inference was, that something was suppressed in *tenderness* to the Prince. Thus it was, that the affair went forth to the world ; and, under the improving influence of those wretches, who are never wanted to anticipate, and, we hope, in the present instance they have surpassed, the wishes of their superiors, the Prince's injuries have been increased a thousand fold. The truth is, that, unless the Ministers publish the correspondence, we for our parts, cannot see how the Prince can avoid doing it ; for, to suppose him *willing* to bear the conclusions, which the partizans of ministers draw from his silence, would be to join in the slander which we have so decidedly condemned. The publication of the correspondence will

terwards to do, but with the utmost delicacy and reserve, it may not be im-

also destroy the effect of the insinuations, by the means of which it is attempted to *fix on another great personage* the blame of refusing the offers of the Prince. The nation will then see, that the refusal came from the *Ministers*, and from the nature of their excuses, will be able to discover the real motives, by which they have been actuated in injuring and insulting a personage, whom, next to their Royal Master, it was their bounden duty to cherish and to honour, but whom, for reasons too obvious to mention, they wish to keep in a state of helplessness and obscurity."

Political Register, Aug. 27, 1803.

Now mark the political consistency of Mr. Cobbet, who in this "Essay" so loudly, and, in our opinion, so justly calls for the publication of the Prince's correspondence. In his "Register" of December 10, the same year, he has the following observations on that very correspondence which, no doubt, his own spirited and manly remarks were a great cause of its being made public.—
"The correspondence (says he) between his Majesty, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and the chancellor of the exchequer, having appeared in

proper to mention that this correspondence would probably have remained a

the other public prints, some surprise may, perhaps, be excited at its not appearing in the Political Register ; but, when reflection shall have taken place of curiosity, I trust, that there will be found but very few of my readers, who will disapprove of the omission. A correspondence between *the Prince* and *the minister*, I should have thought myself at full liberty to publish and also to comment on ; but, from publishing the letters, which are here alluded to, I am with-held by all the notions which I entertain of the Royal character, and by all the principles which have hitherto been the guide of my public conduct. There may, however, be some persons, who will be disappointed at not seeing the correspondence in the Political Register, and who will, perhaps, deny, that after its appearance in every other periodical work, it ought to be excluded from mine. If this opinion should operate to the prejudice of my labours in general, I shall be sorry ; if it should injure the cause that I have espoused, I shall still more sorely lament ; but, neither this consideration, nor any other, shall induce me, either now, or at any fu-

secret from the public, but for a conversation in the House of Commons, on the motion of Colonel (since) General Craufurd, for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the mode of fortifying the country. This brought on a debate of considerable length, in

ture period, to be instrumental in communicating to the world, or in putting upon record, the documents in question ; or to admit into my work, any comments on them, or allusion to them ; a resolution which has been dictated by that profound respect and veneration which I entertain towards all the Royal Personages concerned, and particularly towards my Sovereign, to whom I am bound by the ties of affection, gratitude, and allegiance, and whose sacred office and person God has commanded me to honour."——*Political Register*, December, 10, 1803.——It would be no difficult matter in this place to expose Mr. Cobbett's tergiversation and versatility, but, having placed his two separate opinions before the public, we leave them to form their judgment upon them.

which Mr. Fox moved an amendment, recommending the appointment of a military council. After a long debate, Colonel Craufurd withdrew his motion; and the house continued debating on Mr. Fox's amendment, until three o'clock in the morning, when a division took place, and the amendment was lost by a considerable majority.

In the course of the above debate, a motion was made that strangers should be excluded from the gallery. This being one of the standing orders of the house of commons, a single member has the power of enforcing it, and though, in the present instance, the public good perhaps, according to the feelings of the member who wished the gallery to be cleared, was his predominant object, still instances have been known when the gallery has been cleared to gratify the purposes of private pique. We have no reason for thinking

that this was the case at this time, and more particularly so as the following particulars of what passed, while the house sat with closed doors, was published on the following morning, bearing with it every mark of authority.

“ While strangers were excluded, we understand that some very remarkable conversation took place with respect to an offer made by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales of his services at the present crisis ; which, it was understood, had not been accepted. After several gentlemen had delivered their sentiments on this subject, Mr. Tyrwhitt, one of his Royal Highness’s household, is stated to have spoken as follows.

“ Mr. Speaker, an illustrious personage, in whose family I have the honour to be placed, having been so directly alluded to by the honourable gentleman who preceded me, I can no lon-

ger be silent. The Prince, from the very commencement of the war, has manifested an anxious wish to be placed in *any* military situation to which his Majesty might be pleased to call him, which wish has been made known to his Majesty's ministers,

“ I esteem it my duty, also, Sir, here to declare (deprecating any imputation that might be thrown upon a character of such value to us all to preserve unshaded), that if the services of the illustrious personage alluded to have been rejected, I have proof that the fault does not lie at his door.”

“ Several members, and in particular Mr. Fox, having, upon this, pressed ministers to give an explanation of their reasons for refusing the services of the Heir Apparent, the Chancellor of the Exchequer arose, and it is said, spoke nearly as follows :—

“ No man is more ready to bear at-

testation to feelings so worthy of the rank and character of the illustrious personage alluded to, than I am. Having made this declaration, I must here pause, and declare, that nothing short of the commands of the King, and the united authority of this house, shall in future ever compel me to say one word more upon the subject."

"Mr. Windham (than whom no man's opinion in the House of Commons was more highly entitled to consideration) most strongly enforced the necessity of a council of war, and thought at all events, that the Prince of Wales ought to have a command.."

Several other members spoke for and against the question, but the speech which most strongly arrested the attention of the House, was that of Mr. Calcraft, who strenuously urged the necessity of a council, and pointedly condemned its rejection for want of

precedent, when the crisis, he said; was unprecedented.—Mr. Calcraft spiritedly observed, that “the Prince of Wales had been a colonel in the army from the year 1782. His brother was a field-marshal and commander in chief. Three younger brothers were lieutenant-generals. And you leave the Heir Apparent to the Monarchy, to fight for that crown which he is one day to wear, as a colonel of a regiment, under the command of a major-general, his own equerry.”

This conversation which took place on the 2d of August, 1803, was not followed by any subsequent proceedings in the House of Commons. Indeed the delicacy of the subject, and the very proper reserve which the Minister preserved on the occasion, precluded almost all further discussion.—But this did not prevent the question *from being* agitated out of doors. At a

moment when invasion was almost daily expected, and when men of all ranks were called upon to afford their personal services at so exigent a crisis, it could not be thought wonderful that those who deserted their peaceful pursuits at such a moment, to follow the occupation of arms, should anxiously enquire, and perhaps with some degree of querulousness, what part was the Prince of Wales to act in such an unexampled moment of national alarm? Was he, at such a period, when commissions of the same rank as that which his Royal Highness bore, were showered down with unheard-of profusion upon men certainly not of military habits, and from their pursuits in life not likely to be much acquainted with military affairs, to be content to remain in the station of a colonel, a station in which he could have no remarkable opportunity of distinguishing himself,

and in which it was well observed he was liable to be commanded by one of his own servants ?

His Majesty as possessing, by the constitution, the power of disposing of all military preferments according to his own discretion, a discretion which it is, at all times, equally our duty and our inclination to pay every respect and deference to, certainly had a right to refuse to gratify the wishes of the Prince of Wales in regard to military preferment, if he thought proper, and perhaps, it was right, in a theoretical point of view, that his Royal Highness should not be allowed to pursue the military line as a profession. In ordinary times we should be inclined to hold the opinion, that it was improper for a Prince of Wales to be invested with any high military command, and in a like manner, except in case of actual invasion, or of very imminent danger, we should

be sorry to see the post of commander in chief filled by the sovereign himself. But taking into consideration the alarming state of the nation—the extraordinary danger that menaced it,—the character of the enemy,—his military genius,—his immense resources,—and above all, the implacable hatred with which he seemed actuated against this country, it could not but excite some surprize to see the Prince of Wales, at a moment of such unparalleled difficulty, continue in the station comparatively of a private nature, and an enquiry was naturally made into the cause which produced a conduct in the heir of the monarchy apparently so unworthy of his birth, and of his stake in the glory and independence of his country. The feelings of the people of England demanded an explanation, and the mode which his Royal Highness adopted for giving that explana-

tion was the best which could have been devised on the occasion. The publication of the correspondence of the Prince of Wales, his Majesty, the Duke of York, and the minister, completely exonerated the Prince from every charge of remissness or inattention to the dangers that menaced his country, and procured him the applause of every patriotic and spirited individual in the nation.

CHAPTER II.

DIGRESSION ON LIBELS—ATTACKS ON THE PRINCE OF WALES BY MR. JEFFERYS AND OTHER PAMPHLETTEERS—SCURRILITY OF THESE WRITERS—CREDULITY OF THE PUBLIC—"DELICATE INQUIRY"—ABUSE OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS—REFLECTIONS ON THE SITUATION OF THE HEIR APPARENT—VINDICATION OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS.

WHOEVER has had patience or curiosity to peruse one half of the defamatory publications against the Prince of Wales, from the year 1783 to the present hour, will have run through a tolerable number of volumes, and may form a competent judgment of the present licentiousness of the press.—But there is another point of view in which we wish to consider these publications. According to a simile of Erasmus, that memory may be considered a good one, which resembles a net so made as

to confine all the great fish, but to let the little ones escape.—Now we would be glad to ask, who has ever had the patience, or taken the trouble to wade through half the trash that has been published against the Prince of Wales, who can say they found either great or small fish in the publications which we have alluded to? That they met with plenty of muddy water, and soiled their nets abundantly, we will not attempt to deny; but that they ever met with any thing in the slightest degree valuable in these publications, that could boast the least pretensions to wit or humour, or add a single page to the most wretched of their commonplace books, or can affirm, with perfect confidence, never was the case.

Censure, Swift observes, is the tax which a man pays for being eminent; but it is somewhat hard on the Prince of Wales, that his calumniators should

at once, be the most malignant and the dullest blockheads of the day.—It is to his Royal Highness's honour that he has never deemed these impotent scribblers worthy of his personal resentment, and the one or two instances in which the libellers of the Prince have been prosecuted, was, we believe, much against his Royal Highness's inclination.*—But that ministers should

* We cannot forbear mentioning in this place, an anecdote of the Prince of Wales, which, we think, our readers will agree with us, reflects high honour on the feelings and considerate delicacy of his Royal Highness. Some years ago, a person who was convicted of a libel on the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York (but not at the prosecution of their Royal Highnesses), was sentenced by the court to stand in the pillory opposite the Horse Guards or Charing Cross. On the morning on which that part of the sentence was carried into execution, it happened that the Prince of Wales, perfectly unacquainted with the circumstance, rode past the spot where the pillory

have shewn so unaccountable an apathy to the feelings and character of the Prince of Wales, in so many instances as it could be proved they have done, is we know not on what principles to be defended. If they had been attacked with half the acrimony and virulence that the Prince of Wales has been attacked, who can doubt for a moment but that the attorney general would have received orders to prosecute their calumniators? *

was erected, and was detained by the crowd some moments in sight of the offender. Such an occurrence as this, though purely accidental, might have been construed to the disadvantage of his Royal Highness, as an illiberal triumph over a fallen enemy, and therefore the next day the Prince sent one of his servants to the individual to apologise for the seeming indelicacy of his being present on the occasion, by shewing that it was owing to mere accident.

* *Mr. Fox* in his opening speech on his libel

We reverence too highly the freedom of the press, and are too sensible of the various advantages and general diffusion of knowledge which have proceeded from that source, to be advo-

bill (1791), a measure which reflected so much honour on that great man, said, "he acknowledged the abuses of the press; but if persons were to argue, from the circumstance of there being so much licence, that there was liberty enough, in his apprehension they would argue very inconclusively. There was no difficulty in this country for any man to libel another; but no man ought to libel with impunity, and public characters had as much a right to be defended as those who were never engaged in public affairs. Any man could indeed libel with impunity any character public or private; but, as the law now stood, he much doubted whether any man could really discuss the actions of government, in the way in which it was the right of every man to discuss them, without running a greater risk to his person and property than prudent men would choose to hazard." *Mem. of the late R. H. C. J. Fox, by R. Fell.* p. 352.

cates for any improper restraints upon it; but we are enemies to the licentiousness of the press, as far as it concerns the characters of individuals in high stations, and private transactions with which the public have little or nothing to do. It may be said that the Prince of Wales, being in some sort the property of the public, is not entitled to the same indulgence that ought to be observed towards ordinary individuals, and we will allow this argument all the weight it merits; but will it be inferred from thence, that such individuals as Jefferys are to be permitted with impunity to rip open the private transactions they have had with their superiors, and as their spleen dictates, load them with every foul opprobrious epithet? Mr. Jefferys's misfortunes in the world, from whatever cause they have proceeded, would make us wish to speak

leniently of him, but there seems a baseness of disposition in him, whether inherent, or springing from poverty and disappointment, we will not attempt to determine, so rancorous and malevolent that we cannot form any excuse for it. There is so much of self and littleness in his publications, that we feel absolutely disgusted to speak of them. Counting-house controversy has seldom any thing very alluring in it; and, when a dealer in trinkets sets up for a broker in morality, we must confess our expectations are not raised very high. Who would have ever heard of Mr. Jefferys's impeaching the morals of the Prince of Wales, but that his own little dirty interests were affected by the arrangement of his Royal Highness's affairs? Who would have ever heard of the faults of the Prince of Wales from Mr. Jefferys's mouth, but that he had a

personal resentment to gratify? Morality is excellent in its place; but even the morality of the pulpit displeases us, when we know that its purpose is not the edification of, but to give pain to an individual, and to answer the ends of private pique and malice. This character runs through the whole of Mr. Jefferys's publications. Whether he whines, cants, or complains, he is uniform.

“None but himself can be his parallel.”

Whether we look at the execrable bombast in his last pamphlet, where he whines over the fate of the emigrant princes, or we examine that precious rhapsody, in the next page of the same work, on the personal virtues of the reigning monarch, we can see nothing but the disappointed and irritable tradesman, inflated with a good opinion of *himself*, and foreseeing in his own mis-

fortunes the seeds of the ruin of empires.

This is not the place for such a discussion, but if it were, we believe no historical fact could be more fully substantiated, than that neither the extravagance of the French princes, nor the financial embarrassments of the French government, were the occasions of the overthrow of the monarchy of France, and therefore all that Mr. Jefferys has said on that head, may as well pass for nothing.—With regard to the personal virtues of the reigning monarch, we are disposed to think as highly of them as any of his Majesty's subjects; but we are sure his Majesty cannot take any satisfaction in seeing himself complimented at the expence of the heir apparent; or, if he can, we sincerely wish him an abler eulogist than he has found in Mr. Jefferys.

Disagreeable as we feel the task to be, we conceive it necessary, for the more thorough refutation of Mr. Jefferys's calumnies, to give an abridgement of his principal charges against the Prince of Wales, adding such reflections and observations of our own as naturally arise on the occasion.

It appears, from Mr. Jefferys's first publication, that his intercourse, as a tradesman, with the Prince of Wales, commenced sometime in the year 1753, a few days after he began business, and he adds, with a simplicity which coming at the threshold of this pamphlet, would lead us to expect better things of him afterwards, that "his Royal Highness (to use his own words) received me with great kindness of manners, and so completely captivated me by his condescension, that young and credulous as I then

was, I imagined my fortune made by his smile."

Mr. Jefferys next proceeds to inform us, that the jeweller whom his Royal Highness had previously employed, having incurred the Prince's displeasure, he, in 1788 or 9, was appointed jeweller and goldsmith to his Royal Highness, and, from that period, for several years, scarcely a day passed in which he was not in attendance at Carlton-house. Inattentive (as he himself says) to the cautions of his friends, he executed all the orders with which the Prince honored him, which were to a large amount, and he rested the future protection of himself and family on the assurances of his Royal Highness."

The cause which led to all Mr. Jefferys's misfortunes, (according to his own account) we shall state in his own words, which are as follows:—

“ On the Twenty-eighth day of January, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety, the Prince of Wales sent for me to Carlton-house, at a much earlier hour in the morning than he was accustomed to do ; and taking me into an inner apartment, with very visible marks of agitation in his countenance and manner, said, he had a great favor to ask of me, which if I could accomplish would be doing him the greatest service, and he should ever consider it accordingly.” I replied, “ that I feared what his Royal Highness might consider as a great favor done towards him, must be more than my limited means could accomplish ; but that in all I could do, I was entirely at his service, and requested his Royal Highness to name his commands.

“ His Royal Highness then proceeded *to state*, “ that a creditor of Mrs. Fitz-

Fitzherbert had made a very peremptory demand for the payment of about sixteen hundred pounds; that Mr. Weltje had been sent by his Royal Highness to the creditor making such demand, to desire it might be placed to the Prince's account; this the creditor refused to do, on the ground that Mrs. Fitzherbert, being a woman of no rank or consideration in the eye of the law, as to personal privilege, was amenable to an immediate process, which was not the case with his Royal Highness. This the Prince stated to have caused in his mind the greatest uneasiness, for fear of the consequences that might ensue; as it was not in the power of his Royal Highness to pay the money then, or to name an earlier period for so doing than three or four months. The request therefore which his Royal Highness had to make to me was, that I

would interfere upon the occasion, and prevent, if possible, any personal inconvenience to Mrs. Fitzherbert, which would be attended with extreme mortification to the feelings of his Royal Highness."

"I assured his Royal Highness that I would do all I could in the business; and I was appointed to attend, with the result of my endeavours at Carlton-house the next morning. I did attend as appointed, and presented the Prince of Wales with a receipt for the whole sum,—fifteen hundred and eighty-five pounds, eleven shillings, and sevenpence, which I had that morning paid, being the only effectual means of pacifying the creditor, and removing from the mind of his Royal Highness the anxiety he appeared so strongly to labor under.

"His Royal Highness was unbounded in his expressions of satisfaction at

what I had so promptly accomplished, and in his assurances of future support; a support so strongly made and so frequently repeated, as well as accompanied with such apparent marks of sincerity, as to have fixed my faith, (even had it been wavering,) in the entire confidence I might place in all his promises and assurances."

Passing by some inconsequential reflections which Mr. Jefferys thinks proper to make in this place, we resume the thread of his narrative.

"In the afternoon of the same day (says he) on which I had so highly gratified the Prince, and heard from his lips such kind expressions of regard; the Prince of Wales came to my house in Piccadilly, and brought Mrs. Fizherbert with him, for the express purpose, as his Royal Highness condescendingly said, that she might herself thank me for the great and

essential service I had that morning rendered her, by the relief my exertions had produced on the minds of his Royal Highness and Mrs. Fitzherbert. And his Royal Highness continued to repeat the same expressions of satisfaction, and assurances or support, which he had so abundantly made use of in the former part of the day.

“ I appeal to General Hulse, a gentleman of known integrity and honor, for the truth of all I have stated, as having passed at Carlton-house, in the morning of the 29th of January, 1790. When General Hulse received his Royal Highness's direction to repay, at the end of three months, the money I had advanced, which was punctually done at the end of that time; though I am inclined to think, that the repayment of the money will not *be considered* by the world, as dis-

charging the obligation, however it might the debt.

“As to what passed at my house when his Royal Highness came there with Mrs. Fitzherbert, a person, still in my service, was present, and to whom I remarked immediately as the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert had quitted it, that if ever I should have the misfortune to lose the Prince’s favor, I should have cause to lament the day when Mrs. Fitzherbert was under the necessity of thanking me for a service performed to her;—an observation I was induced to make, from the mortified pride visible in the countenance of that lady.”

We have to apologize to our readers for the length of the preceding extract, but when we assure them that it contains the whole cream of Mr. Jefferys’ publications, they will perhaps excuse us.

The next point upon which Mr. Jefferys touches, is a loan of four hundred and twenty pounds to the Prince, which he complains was not repaid at the time appointed, and not until considerably more than a twelve-month afterwards. This is so paltry a matter, and the whole of Mr. Jefferys's argument on the subject, is so peevish and childish, his disappointment and spleen break out so at every moment, that a man of any common sense of decency and good breeding, must feel ashamed of having any thing to do with an antagonist who has lost all sense of both.

But what Mr. Jefferys lays the most stress upon is, the vast sums of money he lost by the jewels which he furnished on account of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, and his loss on bond debts due from his Royal Highness. When a man considers

himself aggrieved, he has an undoubted right to complain, but at the same time he should manage his complaint, not to make it appear as if it was made solely for the purpose of giving pain to the person complained of, but for the end of obtaining justice or relief himself. But is this the case with Mr. Jefferys? No! it is apparent in every page of his pamphlet, that the motive for which he writes, is not to vindicate himself, or to obtain justice, but to distress and wound the feelings of the Prince of Wales. When Wilkes was at the height of his popularity, he was called by one of the shrewdest men of the day, "a thorn in the king's side:" perhaps Mr. Jefferys aspires to the honor of being thought *a thorn in the side* of the Prince of Wales, but this we can venture to assure him never has been, and *never will be* the case. Without

any of the pretensions of Wilkes, without wit, learning, or common sense, with nothing but vulgarity and impudence, Mr. Jefferys can never be the formidable antagonist, whatever the "respectable friends", of whom he chuses to make such *honourable mention*, may please to tell him.

It is a fact, we believe, perfectly well known, that many of the debts of Frederick Prince of Wales remain undischarged to the present hour, and every creditor of his royal highness the present Prince of Wales must have known, that, previous to the passing of the act of parliament (1795) for granting a suitable establishment to the Prince on his marriage, and for providing for the liquidation of his debts, their claims on his Royal Highness rested exactly on the same security as those of the creditors of Frederick Prince of Wales did, namely, on the life of his Royal Highness, for his

Royal Highness possessing only a life interest in the duchy of Cornwall and the revenues granted by the state for the support of his dignity, there would be found no assets which his creditors could claim in the case of a demise. This Mr. Jefferys seems himself to have been perfectly aware of, when he tells us that he took the precaution to secure himself against loss by insuring the life of the Prince, which was no more than what common prudence required him to do, and what we dare say by far the greater majority of his Royal Highness's creditors did likewise. But will any man of common sense pretend to believe, that while Mr. Jefferys and the other creditors of the Prince of Wales were paying large annual premiums for insuring the life of his Royal Highness, that they were not at the same time charging the *premium on their goods*? The thing is

far too absurd for belief. It is impossible from the nature of trade that they should have done so; and on account of the long credit they were obliged to give his Royal Highness, they must have charged an addition at least equivalent to interest of their money, and few who know any thing of tradesmen will be apt to think that they were content with so moderate and reasonable a surcharge.

This was nearly the true state of the question between the Prince of Wales and his creditors (Mr. Jefferys among others), when parliament, in 1795, took the embarrassments of his Royal Highness into consideration: and certainly whatever reason the Prince might have had to complain of the arrangements of that period, the creditors of his Royal Highness had none. The creditors of his Royal Highness *had the amount of their fair claims assured to them in as full a manner as*

the creditors of the nation, and the only thing they had to complain of was the unavoidable postponement of payment, but for this they were allowed interest on their demands, and no doubt they took care to provide in their charges.*

* The Clauses in the bill which Mr. Jefferys appeals most to as affecting his interest are the 9th, and 12th, which we subjoin to shew with how little reason this gentleman complains.

“ Creditors dissatisfied may sue the Commissioners.

IX. “ If any creditor, or creditors be, in such case, dissatisfied with the judgment of the said commissioners, such creditor or creditors may sue any one or more of such commissioners, In any of his Majesty’s courts of record at Westminster, in an action for debt, for the recovery thereof; and to serve such commissioner or commissioners with a copy of the process of such court upon the original cause of action, in which, costs shall be awarded to either party as in other cases of trials at law, provided the copy of such process be served within ten days from the notification of their determination; and no writ of error shall be brought upon judgment in such action.

According to the statement made by Mr. Addington (then chancellor of

“ Commissioners may settle the course of payment of debts, &c.

XII. “ And the said commissioners are empowered to treat or agree with all or any of the persons on whose behalf any debts shall be demanded as due from his Royal Highness, and to settle the course of payment as they shall seem fit : and whenever any debt shall have been proved to the satisfaction of the commissioners, they are required to cause to be made out, under the hands and seals of three or more of them, one or more security or securities for the payment of the said debt, by way of debenture or debentures, with a defeazance thereon, for making the same void on payment, according to such course and order, and under such conditions as shall be settled by the said commissioners, together with interest for the same, at five per cent. per annum, until payment of the same ; and all such securities and sums of money due or to grow due thereon, shall be severally charged upon the respective funds established by this act for payment of the same, in the manner established ; and all such securities shall be assignable and transferable, from time to time, to any person or persons, by endorsement in writing under the hands of the respective credi-

the exchequer) in March 1803, it appeared that at the time when Mr. Pitt proposed a grant of 620,000*l.* as a sum fully sufficient to guard against any possible out standing claim against his Royal Highness, and commissioners were appointed to take cognizance of those claims, they were allowed an addition to the amount of 650,000*l.* to enable them to discharge every debt that could be claimed against his Royal Highness, the fairness and validity of which could entitle them to be liquidated; and those debts have in consequence been fully satisfied. When it appeared that the aggregate of the debts exceeded the sum of 620,000*l.* the commissioners inquired into their validity, and carefully distinguished what was fair from what was fraudulent. The result they submit-

tors, or their executors, administrators, or assigns."

ted to parliament. Upon the whole, indeed, it appeared that the debts which were regarded as fraudulent did not amount to any thing considerable ; yet there remained an excess. The demand of the creditors might rise, and did rise in effect, on account of the uncertainty and remoteness of the period at which they were to be paid. But no reproach could therefore be imputed to the commissioners ; they availed themselves of every circumstance of which they could fairly take advantage ; they proposed in payment to the creditors debentures of 100%. with an interest of 3 per cent, or debentures of 90%. bearing an interest of 5%. per cent. They had their option which to choose, and they preferred the debentures of 90%. bearing an interest of 5%. per cent. The reason of this preference he conceived to be the expectation the creditors entertained of the speedy return of peace, upon which event they hoped

the debentures would bear a premium.

Such was the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1803, and we think it assigns a very satisfactory reason, why a deduction was made from the claims of the creditors of the Prince of Wales. Had either of Lord Malmesbury's pacific missions succeeded, there can be no doubt but that his Royal Highness's debentures would have borne a premium, and consequently the holders of them would have been considerable gainers above their legitimate demand; but like the holders of every other sort of government security, the value of their property necessarily depended upon the fluctuations of the money market.

Mr. Jefferys asserts that the debentures were disposed of at a loss of 20 per cent. discount; but does he not remember that the years 1795-6 and 7,

were distinguished by an unparalleled series of political and commercial embarrassments? In the course of that time the funds experienced a greater depreciation than had ever before been known; the Bank of England, for the first time since the day of its establishment, ceased to pay its notes in cash; and a general despondency seized the commercial world. These were calamities which Mr. Jefferys must at least acknowledge the Prince of Wales or his friends had no share in bringing on their country. Yet does this irascible and discontented man obstinately persist to charge the Prince of Wales with all his misfortunes, while without troubling our heads to search for them in any improvidence of Mr. Jefferys himself, the cause is so easily detected in the national embarrassments of the period.

In 1795, parliament acted fairly, li-

berally, and munificently towards every individual concerned in the embarrassments of the Prince of Wales, except the Royal Personage himself.—He had no control in the arrangements that received the legislative sanction, and was, indeed, the only individual whose interests and feelings seemed not to be consulted. Yet the Prince of Wales is blamed by Mr. Jefferys for this arrangement as if the whole had been drawn up in his own hand writing, and signed at Carlton House with the royal seal. This is truly insupportable. But when in addition to this, the same writer, in the most bare-faced manner, brings forward the most infamous and scurrilous charges against his Royal Highness, we know not what terms of reproach to apply to the conduct of such a miscreant. The language which Lord Moira made use of to him, we can very readily believe

to have fallen from that gallant and noble-minded soldier, when, to borrow from Mr. Jefferys's own pamphlet—"His Lordship (he informs us) told me my conduct was scandalous, in writing such a letter to Colonel M'Mahon; and in proposing to publish my case under the title of 'A Review of the Conduct of the Prince of Wales,' that he should think it his duty to persuade his Royal Highness never more to notice me; that my conduct was a fit subject for an attorney-general; and his Lordship went so far as to declare my proposal to publish a review of the Prince's conduct, to the threatening letter of a felon to extort money."

Coinciding most perfectly in Lord Moira's sentiments, we are decidedly of opinion the Prince would have acted with the utmost degree of pusillanimity and wholly unworthy of his character, had he for an instant paid the

least regard to Jefferys's threats. It has been well said, that "nothing more unqualifies a man to act with prudence, than a misfortune that is attended with shame and guilt." But what was there in the Prince's connection with Jefferys, or in any thing in his Royal Highness's conduct that Jefferys saw, or had the least right to take cognizance of, that the Prince was to yield to the importunities of his *ci-devant* jeweller, under the penalty of having his "*conduct reviewed*?" Who but the most egregious blockhead in nature could have dreamt of succeeding by such a course? What man of the least spirit would not have resented such an indignity, and treated the *cavalier* application of Mr. Jefferys with the same contempt that his Royal Highness had so properly shewn?

With regard to the extraneous matter with which Mr. Jefferys has en-

larged his pamphlet, we find that point is so well discussed in an anonymous publication *, that we feel no hesitation in presenting our readers with the spirited writer's own observations on the subject.—“ Mr. Jefferys,” (says this able vindicator of the Prince) “ has added several letters of his own writing to his Royal Highness, and many to his personal friends; whatever motives Mr. Jefferys had in writing them, or in setting them forth to embellish his pamphlet, there is no one of the letters that I can see, that proves any thing towards the case he wishes to substantiate; at least I am so dull of compre-

* “ A Letter to the Earl of Moira: in which is contained a Review of the libellous Pamphlets lately published, with intent to defame the character of the Prince of Wales; with Observations upon their dangerous Tendency and Effect.”—By a Barrister at Law.

hension, I cannot find out that there is: they enlarge the size of the pamphlet, and enable the publisher to charge more for it; but of any other use I do not think they can be; and with all my pity for any man in misfortune, and condolence with Mr. Jefferys in his; I am unable to find out any motive but that of malevolence, that could have actuated Mr. Jefferys to insert in his pamphlet any statement of transactions relative to a certain lady, respected very much by persons I had rather be respected than by Mr. Jefferys now that I have seen his pamphlet; and with any of the circumstances respecting whom Mr. Jefferys in his case against the Prince of Wales had nothing to do. Mr. Jefferys does not state that he expects remuneration from Mrs. F—z—t, why then introduce her into the world as a person concerned at all in the business? It shews little-

ness of mind, and is done to throw an odium upon his Royal Highness through means of any sort that could be scraped together, be they ever so despicable. Why is the subject of an illustrious female and her virtues brought forward? The adulation of a man like Jefferys cannot be acceptable to her, and he well knows it; but the end is to throw unmerited opprobrium upon the Prince of Wales, which is the true motive of Mr. Jefferys's pamphlet appearing in the world: what can the subject of her Royal Highness and her virtues have to do with the claims of Mr. Jefferys on the Prince of Wales?"

Perfectly concurring in the opinion of this writer, there remains but another point for us to notice, and then we shall, much to our own satisfaction, take our leave of Mr. Jefferys.—“Is it not a reproach to your feelings, Sir,

(says Mr. Jefferys), that while the middle and lower orders of society can with difficulty obtain the common necessities of life, that your Royal Highness (insensible to their deplorable situation, and to the accumulated calamities which mark the present times) should waste with such an inconsiderate profusion the vast sums you are now expending."—Now is there a single person to be found, so weak as to believe that this charitable piece of Jacobinism would have ever found a place in Mr. Jefferys's breast, much more made its appearance before the public under the *sanction* of *his* name, had not that gentleman felt sore for the ill-success of his speculations as a tradesman of the Prince of Wales's?—We have shewn that the Prince of Wales was not amenable for any losses that Mr. Jefferys sustained in consequence of those speculations, and that,

however, the liberality of his temper might have led him to sympathize with the unfortunate creditor; yet that neither honour nor princely feeling would permit him to yield to the disgraceful menaces of an insolent libeller.

We are now going to relate a story, which as we must relate it solely from memory, we cannot pledge ourselves to our readers that every *iota* of it is true, but still, we will pledge ourselves, that the general outline is correct, and whoever will take the trouble to consult the voluminous reports from whence we borrow the subsequent narrative, will find, that though we may not be technically right in every minute circumstance, yet that the body of the narrative rests on a solid foundation.—No person in the least acquainted with the Oriental world can have failed to have heard of the Nabob of Arcot and his debts. That prince,

once one of the most wealthy and independent sovereigns of India, through the machinations of a treacherous and avaricious set of Scotch adventurers, was reduced to a condition very little short of absolute indigence. In the decline of his fortunes, when *jaghire* had been granted upon *jaghire*, and bond multiplied upon bond, to satisfy the craving appetites of the wretches who infested his *durbar*, a Scotchman, largely gifted with the provident wisdom of his nation, presented himself at the Nabob's court, with a curious musical instrument, which he affirmed he had caused to be made solely for the gratification of his Royal Highness. —In vain the unfortunate prince pleaded the derangement of his finances,—that he had no occasion for such an expensive toy,—it was replied to him by the wilely North Briton's countrymen, that as the instrument was

made in *honour* of his Royal Highness, so in *justice* his Royal Highness ought to pay for it.

If Mr. Jefferys was a member of parliament when the "Reports" which we have alluded to were published, he, if he perused the reports, must recollect the foregoing story. He must remember also, that the claim of the impudent Scotchman and those also of some of his still more infamous countrymen, were allowed, and that the domains of the poor plundered and pillaged Nabob of Arcot were vested in the hands of trustees (commissioners, if you will) for the purpose of discharging the claims of the *unhappy* creditors of that *unfortunate* prince. It must likewise be in the recollection of Mr. Jefferys, if he has paid the smallest attention to the fortunes of some of the most deeply involved creditors of the Nabob of Arcot, that the distresses

of that unhappy prince, in Asia, have been most amply compensated by the sufferings of his pillagers in Europe. Did the well-merited inflictions that fell upon some of the prime plunderers of the Nabob of Arcot cause no qualms in the conscience of Mr. Jefferys? Did he never hear of the fate of Benfield, and of his unhappy colleague Boyd? Yet these men never taxed their illustrious patron with injustice. These men never published defamatory libels against their Eastern patron, because the debentures of the Asiatic Prince sold at a loss. We will not violate the sanctuary which their misfortunes have cast over them by any harsh expressions; but we leave it to Mr. Jefferys to decide between these men and himself:—and let the public too decide between the betrayers of an Asiatic and the libeller of an European Prince.

When the ground was once broken

by Mr. Jefferys, it is almost incredible how numerous a tribe of anonymous defamers sprung up against the Prince of Wales. To recapitulate all the charges of these wretched scribblers, or even to mention the titles of their ephemeral publications, would be a waste of ink and paper. No regard to the decencies of private life, no veneration for rank or illustrious station, obtained a place in their writings, but the whole was a mass of folly, malignity, and turpitude. The words of one of the best and most enlightened men in the kingdom *, are so applicable to this pestilent race, that we are persuaded our readers will not be displeased to find them here.—“The common herd of libellers belong to literature only.

* The Rev. David Williams, founder of the Literary Fund Society. “Claims of Literature,”
p. 50.

because they know the alphabeti satirists, by trade, deserve notice only when, like malicious boys in coarse and ignorant play, they deface and mutilate the finest statues. Literary bravoes can neither honour nor degrade any man; their affected esteem does not flatter; their affected contempt never tarnishes. Calumnies, commanded by political factions, and expressions of esteem, inspired by fear or venality, are the dregs of literature, and they tend, of their own accord, to the filthy gulph of everlasting oblivion. They are arrested in this noisome career by notice, and even by punishment."

The most plausible argument urged against the Prince of Wales, and that which was most calculated to catch the attention of the vulgar, both in high and low life, was his Royal Highness's want of economy, an argument made

use of by some members of parliament, and eagerly echoed by the hireling writers, viz. that there was no necessity for the Heir Apparent to keep up an expensive establishment, when all fears on account of Jacobinism had vanished. This idea which, however, was a very favourite one with the members and writers we have alluded to, was admirably refuted by Mr. Sheridan in the House of Commons.—“Thus Sir,” said Mr. Sheridan, “though we did not know it before, and I am afraid the doctrine will not find many adherents among us even now, the Jacobins are the greatest supporters of the splendour of the Royal Family; and as we are told in the fable of the two owls perched on a ruin, who said to each other, when the tyrant who caused the devastation passed by, ‘Long live King Massood, for while he reigns we shall have plenty of ruined villages;’ so

our Royal Family should say, ‘Heaven send us plenty of Jacobins, for they are the best support of our rank, and state, and dignity.’ Some persons had said, that the trappings of monarchy were of no importance, that virtue was every thing, and they deprecated the assumption of rank and state accordingly. He had no objection to this doctrine, if the system so early established, so invariably maintained, and handed down to us by our ancestors, was proved to be foolish.—But let the rule be general, let not the splendour of one be curtailed, while that of another is extended. If, as a great man in this country (the late Earl of Chatham) had said, ‘Every feather of the royal bird aids his flight,’ though he should not go to the length that noble Lord did, in saying, ‘that when they drooped, or were shed, the bird

‘ would fall to the ground ;’ yet all should be cautiously preserved.

“ In order to bring this contending system home to gentlemen’s minds,” said Mr. Sheridan, “ let it be applied to the house.—Let it be supposed that the Speaker possessed sufficient dignity and commanded sufficient respect by those virtues which it was acknowledged he possessed ; let the chair be removed ; let the other badges be stripped off ; let that bauble* (the mace) be taken away ; let the fine house which was building for him ; in which he hoped he would soon entertain the members with his accustomed hospitality and splendour, be demolished ; let the state coach be laid down, and instead of proceeding in it to St. James’s, attended by a grand procession of members, in their private coaches, let

* *This* was the phrase used by Cromwell.

him go on foot with the addresses, covered with a warm surtout, and honoured with the privilege of an umbrella in case of rain.—Let the Judges be conducted by no Sheriffs or Sheriff's attendants, to the assize towns; let the Chief Justice go down in the mail coach, and the puisne Judges content themselves with travelling as outside passengers.—Let the Lord Mayor instead of coming to Westminster Hall in the state barge, accompanied by the several companies in their state barges, let him come in a plain wherry, without any attendants; and instead of going back to feast at Guildhall, with the great officers of state and foreign ambassadors, let him content himself with stopping in his way back, and taking a beef steak at Dolly's chop house.

“It was not easy” (Mr. Sheridan said) “to have done with citing instances in which the abridgement of

their happiness, which foreigners admire, but which, according to these gentlemen, are quite simple and unnecessary in the Prince of Wales, may be effected with great saving to the public."

We have nothing to add to these arguments. The reasoning is so cogent, the humour is so irresistible, that he must be impenetrably dull who does not yield to their force.

CHAPTER III.

LIBELS AGAINST THE PRINCE OF WALES—ATTACK OF MR. JOHN BOWLES—CHARACTER OF THE MODERN PURITANS—COMPARISON BETWEEN THEM AND THE PURITANS OF CROMWELL'S TIME—THE PRINCE REFUSED THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES—REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT.

THE mild hearted, and those who feel disposed to pity rather than condemn human errors, will find some excuse for the ravings of Jeffcrys in the poverty of the man; they will attribute his *holy* zeal against the Prince to that scrutinizing view which a man overtaken by misfortunes bestows on every one in any degree connected with him but himself. Men, we have before had occasion to observe, take but an

oblique view of their own faults, whereas they see the faults of other people double. But what excuse shall we find for another class of libellers, if possible still more malignant than the unhappy man to whom we have alluded, or the gang of miscreants who brooding over the foul exuviae of Jefferys, gave birth to a string of libels still more atrocious than those engendered in the sluice and filth of the jeweller? There is yet another class of defamers still more insolent and detestable to be noticed,—those self-constituted censors of morals,—those modern puritans to whom the Prince of Wales seems to have given deadly offence. If the decencies of life would allow us to express our free opinion on these wretches, in what terms should we designate them? The Giffords, the Nares's, the John Bowles's of the day, and their pharisaical brethren, whether of the

Anti-Jacobin Review, the Evangelical Magazine, or the suppression of Vice Society!

Soon after the death of the late illustrious and truly excellent Duke of Bedford, one of the saints here mentioned, Mr. John Bowles, published an execrable farrago of cant, hypocrisy, and puritanism, the object of which was to vilify the memory of that great and good nobleman, and to insult the friends whom he valued most while living—the Prince of Wales and Mr. Fox. We mention this detestable fanatic, but for the purpose of enriching our pages with a master-piece of argument, brilliant humour, and caustic severity, which appeared in answer to his impotent railings in one of the prints of the day.—“There is no rule more simple,” says the chastiser of Bowles, “and at the same time more sound; none more pregnant with interest to

the morals and the melioration of society than that the man who does a dirty action should be deemed a dirty fellow." But the motive of this man stinks through every part of his proceedings. Who is the Duke of Bedford's libeller? A hired sycophant of government. Does it follow then that government approves of this act? It is palpable that the actor hoped so; and the public never heard of his being discouraged or punished: Was he encouraged then? I never heard that Sir John Dalrymple was originally encouraged: but there is enough in the rumours upon that subject to instigate a corrupt speculator (of which this would not be the first instance); and if there be any humour in this country, that can be gratified by an endeavour to soil the man who has contributed so much to make the name of Russel shine bright, among the brightest, in

English annals (lying with the Capulets too, for above a century), far, far more natural to the fruition of such an appetite would be the labour to blacken the recently vanished Duke of Bedford; who was obviously and avowedly stained with all his ancestor's crimes; namely, the like love of liberty; the like fidelity to principle; the like constancy to his friends; the like purity in the midst of pollution. The proper question is, would this man have perpetrated this libel, if he thought it would be disagreeable to what he calls "the powers that be?"—quoting, as another divinity is said sometimes to quote, a book, which I revere too much to mention in this place.—A man's motive is between heaven and himself; conduct, alone, is the clue to guess at it; and this man's conduct detects his mind as visibly as if it was inclosed in glass instead of *fl. sh.* Whether he assails the

living or the dead ; whether the Prince of Wales, the late Duke of Bedford, Mr. Fox or any other delinquent, is honoured with his malignity ; whether his virulent morality is vented upon routs or masquerades, upon the “ Pic Nics”, or upon ladies’ petticoats ; whatever be the object of his bombastic inanities ; the beginning and the end of all his holiness, all his religion, all his loyalty, all his patriotism, and all pudicity, is a never failing panegyric upon the source of all the good things in this government !

“ But his Majesty has too much good taste to feel other than disgusted at the flummery of this slippery slave ; who, even within the last week, has furnished a more forcible illustration of his views than could be effected by volumes of reasoning.—To a new edition of a farrago of common-place morality and conventicle zeal, first pub-

lished, it seems, some years since, a new preface is put by him, the sole purpose of which is to vilify the Prince of Wales; who, at present, does not “lull in the sweet nepenthe of the court;” and whose reported treatment from that quarter would make the obnoxious properties of that herb, not wholly useless to his mind. There is not a hint of vulgar, rude, licentious aspersion omitted in this preface; not even that which the vilest scribblers have hitherto left unmeddled with, as something quite out of the scope of controversy, and too serious to be touched by the most scurrilous stipendiary—the supposed discontents of man and wife: all these are reflected in clumsy obliquity; but all these are accompanied with a constant chorus that closes the saint’s ribaldry—a frothy, fulsome, rancid encomium upon the King, which (it would be irreverence to doubt it)

must excite his Majesty's ineffable contempt—the more if his Majesty should see that its main drift is to exclude all other inference, than that the issue of his loins and the heir of his throne is, in Shakespeare's words, “neither fit to govern, nor to live.”

“ But oh, if the Prince of Wales should be impressed with any other than (what ought ever to be the first feeling of a high and honourable mind, upon such occasions) a sentiment of scorn for a principled libeller, who is only labouring in his vocation—if in wading through the lucubrations of the profoundest master of the dull, the redundant, the mad, and the malicious, by whom our nation has been graced since the days of Jeremy Collyer and John Dennis—should the high Prince, just named, be sensible of the slightest chagrin, he may rest quite assured, *that* when, in the course of nature, he

shall become invested with the sovereignty of these realms, all men of this slanderer's complexion, will be as forward in flattery to him, as now they are in detraction. Such virtuous followers will always be in the train of "the powers that be" as exactly, as was that famous knot of parliamentary cherubims in the time of the commonwealth, who, calling their venality "awaiting upon Providence," made it a point to stick to all the existing governments, even to that of King Charles himself; to whom these saintly senators most faithfully adhered, till all his merit took flight from him, with his power,

"For merit will, by turns, forsake them all,

"Would you know when? exactly when they fall."

"The prototypes of the saint before us, were a something schirrous, that

stuck to the side of power in all ages; and who are only out of their element when a good man happens to reign.—Augustus Cæsar, who was in some points a judicious prince, loved the flatteries of Horace and Virgil, but prohibited vulgar daubery*. The voice of fame is doubtless the sweetest music to an honest ear; but Titus and Trajan were scandalized at the prostration, and shocked at the blasphemous incense which Commodus and Caracalla snuffed up as their daily tribute, from a senate and people debased by corruption and degenerated by servility. Covered over with murders, incests, and parricides, no monarch was ever more praised than Nero, and praised chiefly for his piety. Artaxerxes, the great

* Jussit magistros nomen suum non obsolefieri.—SÆTONIUS.

king, took a fancy to marry his own daughter, Atossa; (the tender virgin having previously officiated as her father's concubine) but felt a little scrupulous about the public scandal of such an indulgence. His Majesty's courtiers, apprised of their master's inclination, soon made 'the royal conscience void of offence towards God or man.' They told him, 'Heaven gave him as a law to the Persians; and had ordained his will as the only rule of right and wrong.' The King espoused Atossa publicly. Atossa was soon after seized with a leprosy; and all the courtiers fatigued the gods with prayers for the restoration to the 'best of kings of this 'best of queens,' who, besides being the mistress and wife of her father and sovereign, had the additional merit of an intrigue with one of her own brothers.—Periander, King of Corinth, drove into exile and want, his own son

(merely from the jealousy which a gloomy and barbarous mind is apt to entertain of his successors.) He debauched his own mother; he murdered his own queen, and then enjoyed her dead body. Pretty well all this for one man; yet throughout the east or the west of Asia, and the north of Africa, no monarch was so praised in his life-time, as Periander, King of Corinth, whom his flatterers ranked among the seven worthies of Greece? —The burning of Lambert, by King Henry VIII. is scarcely to be paralleled in history, both for the ludicrous solemnity, and the remorseless cruelty of the whole proceeding; yet neither the Black Prince at Cressy, nor Henry V. in conquering France, nor Queen Elizabeth, after the Spanish Armada, was so much praised, as this barbarous tyrant, King Henry VIII. was praised for *this horrid murder*. — But it is not for

all this to be inferred, that the applause bestowed upon kings is necessarily false? No, far from it; but these instances serve to shew, in so far, what history proves, even to an aphorism:—that to a thorough-paced courtier, the conduct of the reigning Prince is a matter of indifference. The sovereign, for the time being, whether he be such, by succession, or by usurpation, is always sure to be the best prince.

“ It is because his Majesty deserves the purest praise, that he will nauseate such a votary as this saint, who aims at his favour by insinuating that one of the highest of his subjects, beloved and adored by his people, should have expiated his immoralities and treasons upon a gibbet, It is because that his Majesty is rich in other virtues, that he would deprecate of all things, the praise of being merely a religious prince: for his Majesty is historically

convinced, that to be a religious prince, *per se*, is to be what has proved one of the greatest curses that has ever been inflicted upon this nation. King Henry VIII. was a most religious sovereign. So was his daughter Mary; and her husband Philip; so was King James II. Religious zeal, in a prince whose people are divided into religious sects, leads to bigotry, and bigotry in such a prince leads to privation and persecution. It does not occur to me, that a single sovereign can be named in Christian history, being a religious zealot over a people differing in their worship, who has escaped being an oppressor.

“ The saint before us, in an illapse of the spirit, thinks ‘ a masquerade the ‘ most licentious of all amusements.— ‘ Whether this be to disqualify the ‘ Prince of Wales, who has sometimes ‘ *indulged* himself in this “ most licen-

"tious amusement," is more than I know; but I trust that it will lie lightly on the Prince's fears. King George II. was sufficiently religious for the English nation and the English constitution; and under him no people ever prospered more, in the same period of time. King George II. was, nevertheless, very fond of this most licentious amusement, but his relaxation in it did not disable him from humbling France in the dust, and leaving this nation in the plenitude of glory. — *It is because his present Majesty* (though not so addicted as his grandfather to this most licentious of all amusements), *is an intelligent and critical prince*, that he will not permit *the mask* to pass for *the reality*, nor allow his understanding to be absued by the artifices of *this spawn of cant and corruption, of slander and sanctity, of things most holy, and things most worldly; who*

while he takes an askance prospective of the powers above, has a full fixed eye on the powers below; a motly disciple of dicinity and avarice, who, dizen'd in the livery of holiness, yet deeply dight in the dross of earth, so temporalizes his spirituality, as to make his theological zeal subsidiary to venal speculation, and who, vibrating between the Tabernacle and the Treasury, makes a sanctimonious shew of religion a cover to views, which his malice (breaking faith, as it were, with his hypocrisy) denudes and exposes in all their native vileness; of a chapman in calumny, whose staple trade is falsehood, and who makes the very discussion of his offences pay tribute to his traffic; of a mongrel in politics, who is, God knows, precisely suited to his task-masters, with whom extreme of profession is the remedy for extreme of defect, and by whom the dearest interests of the English people, with the people themselves, are put

to the most direful of hazards, by perilous experiments ; by fantastic calculations ; and by a courage which is at once desperate and ridiculous, the awkward offspring of rashness and debility.—Of such a man his Majesty will despise the praise ; of such a man the public will loath the admonitions—of which, however, this saint is infinitely prodigal. These he flings upon, even, the House of Commons, at which his wrath is but indifferently suppressed, for its “liberal silence” (the saint’s words) in listening to Mr. Fox ; plainly intimating that the auditory was not a whit more religious than the eulogist, or the eulogized. For this (the only defect certainly of that House) our saint offers a reform ; namely, that the House of Parliament would make “the sacred code their guide and the model of their statutes”—counsel which it is probable even Sir Richard Hill would

Dutch were enemies of England, but "enemies of Christ;" and they declared war against Spain, in hopes, "it would crush Antichrist, and make way for the Gospel over the whole world." The monarchical puritan is quite scandalized at the gaiety of the sex in our days; and several pages in one of his valuable performances, are employed in decrying what he calls the indecent mode of dress.* The republican pu-

* What part of the present female dress (the most perfectly elegant, by the way, that ever adorned the female form) it is, that offends our saint, our saint has not informed us. The fair ones of Egypt, and indeed of all the Eastern nations, carry their chariness farther than perhaps the saint himself might prescribe: for these modest creatures hide under a piece of cloth, even their pretty faces, yet are they the most concupiscent race of damsels under the sun.---P. Primmer said, "All the miscarriages of the nation arose from the great folks not learning to read"---but how short is the poet's fiction of this saint's reality: hear his own

ritans would have raised a bulwark against these dreadful inroads: for they brought a bill into parliament to prohibit the women from rouging their cheeks, and visiting wholesome punishments upon "certain caps and gowns."—The monarchical puritan calls loudly for fresh "penalties to restrain adultery"—the republican puritans made as little allowance for a state of things

words—"Who does not see in this disposition, (the present fashion of female dress) a much more formidable enemy than Buonaparte himself with all his power, perfidy, and malice;" and presently after, he adds, "that the moral change arising from such a disposition, would be more tremendous than even the suspension of those wonderful powers of nature, which confine the planets to their respective orbs, and maintain from age to age the harmony of the universe." In the style of this rhapsody are the whole of this saint's ingenious works that have fallen into the writer's hands.

which undoubtedly is not the best designed for forecast and meditation; they passed a statute upon the saint's favourite model, making fornication death. Redoubtable philosophers!—Well they knew, that corporeal punishment is the surest curb upon natural propensities. The monarchical puritan seems to feel all the antipathy of his kind, to classic cultivation, and quotes authorities to prove, that “heathenish learning leads to atheism;”—the republican puritans would have abolished Greek and Latin altogether. The masters were insulted in their lecture-rooms in both our universities, and the education of youth in the ancient authors, was stigmatized as an abomination.—The monarchical puritan is a sore enemy to driving horses on a Sunday; to routes, masquerades, and such wicked sports—the stage (mark the saint's words) “abounds in such gross

indecentcy of licentiousness, that the theatre is no longer a fit resort for modest women ; routes and masquerades were not common among the republican puritans ; but from cock-fighting for the low, to play-writing for the high, they wreaked their holy vengeance upon every description of amusement in the country, insomuch that in the preamble to the treaty of Uxbridge it was insisted upon that the theatres should never again be opened in this nation. Thus it appears, that our modern *Kill Sin* is anticipated in every point. When he aims at being the founder of a new system, he is but the ditto of a doughty original. What he would now make us, we have sober certainty that we have already been.— Our legislators strove to make “the sacred code the model of their statutes!” Our government and our army affected to make it “their guide.”—

And sure enough such a scene, never from his rise to his set, did the sun ever shed his rays upon, as was this goodly island. In parliament, pious raptures, holy extacies, ghostly fervours; in the pulpit, spiritual ejaculations, sacred convulsions, inspired phrenzies. Within, every speech was a sermon; without, every sermon was a speech; among the people, the like strains engrossed all minds; visions, revelations, illuminations, weeping, praying, sighing, shaking; one proclaimed he had just received an express from God; another called himself, and doubtless thought himself, Jesus Christ, (for of what is not saintship capable?) and was greatly worshipped; the army went to fight, like Sir Hugh Evans, singing hymns and homilies; the sword in one hand, "the sacred code" in the other, besieging the Lord with prayer, and the King with bullets; divided and

subdivided infinity, yet all equally divine, and all, alike, reducing the supernatural to certainty ; at open war with every refined and rational enjoyment ; enchanted with fasts, privations, and discomforts ; austere, rancorous, sour, malignant, and unforgiving. Such was the change wrought by inflaming and infuriating the human mind with an abuse of the most awful of subjects, which this saint calls “ the sacred code,” until at length, every thing generous and noble, and enlarged and virtuous ; all “ candour, liberality, and moderation,” qualities which peculiarly provoke the saint in question ; all hospitality, good-fellowship, and social feeling ; the works of genius, the monuments of study, arts, elegance, learning, science, civilization were laid in one common grave with the prelacy, the peerage, and the monarchy. —Such is the reign, of which this holy

ribald, with his codes and his guides for law and legislators, would risk the revival: usurping as he does, the jurisdiction of those whose lives are devoted to theological studies, and to moral instruction; not one of whom is noticed by him with the smallest respect.

“ In this point he follows the elect of the seventeenth century, most strictly: with whom the sacerdotal character has always been an object of rancour. Egotistically celestial and self-conceited, the vocation of the true saint is from a higher call than human ordination, and accordingly the ecclesiastical order is always sure to be undervalued. This oracle of sentiment, who, like Joseph Surface, is moral in every thing, commences and closes his divine treatises, with shame and sorrow for the decline of religion and the growth of impurity in the higher orders

(excepting the government, always excepting "the powers that be") without any civility to the clergy; excepting in one note at the bottom of one of his pious pages, where, against the inference of his text, some visitation charges are reluctantly commended, as if the saint had felt a prescience of the future exigencies of his character.

"That the nation, high and low, has many faults, cannot be denied; the nation is, even at this moment, ten thousand times more truly virtuous than when it was steeped up to the chin in saintship, whilst, as I apprehend, there is no reasonably just foundation for general charges of impiety; charges, however, which, if true, would in the saint's logic imply the clergy to be sad truants. If the flock is reprobate, how is the pastor? To not one clergyman, therefore, does he give a good word. Not the Archbishop of

Canterbury, whose pious and virtuous moderation does honour, even, to his sacred function : not even the Bishop of London, who, (totally free from every trace of this fury's spirit) has so eloquently laboured to improve the community. But, in truth, the saint had no motive to sin with the heads of the church. Their good things were not in his way ; and from them he could expect nothing. As, therefore, some illicit object appears ambushed under his shewiest pretences, it is in the genius of such a mind that these reiterated lamentations on the score of irreligion should, at the same time, convey a reproach upon the priesthood. This is most strictly in keeping with his whole system. So, when he deals in the merest generalities, you will see some spiteful personal illustration close at hand. His "right butter woman's" rant about connubial qualities in princes, only precedes the

most malignant implications against the HEIR APPARENT. Tied to his veneration for the Lord's day, is his defamation of the Duke of Bedford. His excommunications of "naughty women" are only shafts levelled at the sensibilities of honourable ladies, whose male relatives have provoked by their virtues the enmity of his employers. His taunts at fashionable dissipation are the sure prelude to servile worship at the shrine of power; and even his glorification in Heaven, is succeeded by the propitiations of Heaven's vicegerent. So that in fact, upon analyzing him to the bottom of his mind, his flash about princely propriety turns out to be a breach of domestic privilege; his sanctification of the Sabbath a sacrilege of the grave; his zeal for female purity a rancour disgraceful to manly feeling; his loyalty corruption; his satire pandering; and his godliness cupidity.—And,

now, I believe I may confidently exact from any candid mind assent to this position; whether an advocate of this character is not more mischievous to the cause of religion than any "practical," or even any theoretical atheist (supposing, which I much doubt, such a being to exist) who might, at the same time, possess good sense, good nature, and good manners; the three grand defects of the sainted subject of our animadversion. The evil of a "practical atheist," so endowed, will commonly be found to lie between himself and his merciful maker. Such a man, whatever his parts or wit, will never deride any system of sober worship. He will neither shake the faith of the people, nor shock the prejudices of his innoxious fellow citizens; whereas a termigant enthusiast, like this man, even if unimbued with low designs, is, of all mortals, the best calculated *to hurt* the cause he affects. If this

advantage of the public. On the contrary, there are the most manifest and undeniable reasons against the exercise of such a right, did it exist. If his Majesty claims the right, he must be surrounded by very pernicious counsellors; and against those counsellors the public indignation should be directed. Those who wish well to the hereditary succession of this monarchy, ought seriously to consider whether the principle has not of late been too much sacrificed. Those who would overthrow the monarchy altogether, could not forward their designs more effectually than by disgracing, mortifying, and calumniating those, who, in the natural course of events will be called to reign."

which we most perfectly coincide, by any observations of our own, but proceed to touch upon another topic with regard to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, which at this period occupied much of the public attention. In King George the First's time, a question was submitted to the judges, whether the reigning sovereign had the right of directing the education, and disposing in marriage of his grandchildren? Ten of the judges, at that period, were of opinion that the right was invested in the king, but two of them dissented, and gave the reasons why they thought that the King had the right to dispose in marriage, but not to the care and education of his grandchildren, which belonged to the Prince, their father.—However, the opinion of the majority of the judges prevailed, and from the time of George I. to the present day, it has been held part

of the royal prerogative, and, accordingly, was so acted upon when the education of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte of Wales came under deliberation. The Prince of Wales remonstrated on the subject as became him both as a father and a man, but all his objections were over-ruled by prerogative. A writer of the day speaking of the subject, in vindication of his Royal Highness, treats of it in so masterly a manner, that we feel happy in adopting his words.—“ We should be glad to know (says he) by what legal process the Prince’s daughter is to be taken from him.—We do not mean to say, that the nation has not such a superior interest in the Royal Family, particularly those who are immediately allied to the succession, that the care and education of them, as well as their marriages, may

call for specific regulations. But positive law has done nothing to transfer the care and education of the children of the Prince of Wales to his father. No act of parliament has done it; and surely we are not to be amused with second-hand civil law from Bracton and Fleta.—It is not easy to see good reasons for such a transference, unless it be thought important to transfer filial duty and affection. Nothing but strong particular reasons could justify the taking of the Prince's children from his care, for the very transference must be founded upon the supposition of error or misconduct in him, and with prejudices so excited, perhaps artfully encouraged, it might not be easy afterwards to reconcile the filial reverence, and obedience, and duty of a child. A Prince of Wales must always be most permanently interested in the good education and

the proper tuition of his child, and it never can be his part to imbue the mind of infancy with prejudices against his own character.—Even if the strict right did most unquestionably exist, as we think it certainly does not, we should consider it one of those rights which ought to lie dormant till they are called forth as remedial of some great evil. But we should be glad to know why the Prince of Wales is to be so stultified and so stigmatized as to be held forth to this country, and to Europe, as unworthy to have the direction of his own daughter's education? The Prince of Wales seems absolutely to be the object of every species of insult. At one time he is told, that during a temporary suspension of the royal authority, any man in the kingdom had just as good a right as he, to the regency. Another time he is refused a com-

mand in the army above that of a colonel of dragoons, though the country is supposed to be on the point of invasion; and last of all, his own daughter is to be taken out of his hands, as if he had neither capacity, virtue, nor natural affection, to enable, or to prompt him to perform the duty of an intelligent father. If such things do not tend to degrade a character, and to bring into question all that is most valuable to the most ordinary individual, far more to the Prince of Wales, we do not know what more successful arts of detraction can be practised.—We cannot conceive, therefore, that those who advise the assertion of such a right as has been claimed, can be actuated by proper motives. There can be no pretence that such a right is now necessary for the good education of the Princess Charlotte, and for the

advantage of the public. On the contrary, there are the most manifest and undeniable reasons against the exercise of such a right, did it exist. If his Majesty claims the right, he must be surrounded by very pernicious counsellors; and against those counsellors the public indignation should be directed. Those who wish well to the hereditary succession of this monarchy, ought seriously to consider whether the principle has not of late been too much sacrificed. Those who would overthrow the monarchy altogether, could not forward their designs more effectually than by disgracing, mortifying, and calumniating those, who, in the natural course of events will be called to reign.”

CHAPTER IV.

VINDICATION OF THE POLITICAL ATTACHMENTS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES—MERITS OF MR. PITT'S ADMINISTRATION—JACOBINISM—STATE OF PARTIES IN 1805-6—DEFENCE OF THE PRINCE'S POLITICAL CONNECTIONS—CASE OF MISS SEYMOUR—INSOLENCE OF THE MONIED ARISTOCRACY.

THE political friendships of the Prince of Wales seem at all times to have given high offence to those political prostitutes, whose hatred of eminent characters always increases

in proportion to the public opinion of their merit. The countenance which his Royal Highness afforded the great and upright parties in the two houses, who, in 1805, coalesced under Lord Grenville, and Mr. Fox, to drive that infatuated statesman, Mr. Pitt, from the helm of power, drew upon him once more all the venal scurrility of the adherents of that minister, and his disgraced and fallen colleague Lord Melville.

A difference of opinion will perhaps always remain as to the real necessity of the first war with republican France. By the defenders of the war, it was said, that it was necessary to preserve the country from the taint of jacobinism, and that had hostilities not been entered upon, the country would have been in great danger of being revolutionized. But at different periods of the war it was

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With regard to jacobinism, the pure abstract jacobinism of the French revolutionary societies, we conceive there cannot exist any difference of opinion on the subject between men of rational minds.—A more hideous monster never was engendered in the womb of sin. But a considerable dif-

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advantage of the public. On the contrary, there are the most manifest and undeniable reasons against the exercise of such a right, did it exist. If his Majesty claims the right, he must be surrounded by very pernicious counsellors; and against those counsellors the public indignation should be directed. Those who wish well to the hereditary succession of this monarchy, ought seriously to consider whether the principle has not of late been too much sacrificed. Those who would overthrow the monarchy altogether, could not forward their designs more effectually than by disgracing, mortifying, and calumniating those, who, in the natural course of events will be called to reign."

maintained them !—who restored—what? The Bourbons?—no!—the Stadtholder?—no!—the Electors of Treves, Mentz, or Cologne— (Good heavens they are forgotten)—the “*iron frontier*,” the “*Dutch barrier*.”—None of these things, indeed were done, but the “Pilot” did much notwithstanding; he allayed the fears which the Lords of the Sessions in Scotland and Mr. Dundas of Arniston, which the Provost of Dublin and the scape-goat of the British prisoners in America, which Mr. Rose of the treasury, and Lord Liverpool of the interior cabinet, apprehended of that frightful monster Jacobinism. It is true he restored no sovereign princes to their thrones; he replaced no Electors in their stalls—Dunkirk he did not conquer—Holland he did not recover—but he did better—(Benfield and Boyd it is true were ruined by his feats, and the chastity of

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on themselves, and the nation whom they had traitorously attempted to seduce from their allegiance to the Heir Apparent, by studiously misrepresenting and blackening his character, clung to him with increased veneration and attachment.—But it was looking for a degree of forbearance in the Prince more than human to expect that he should forgive the state quacks who had brought the constitution of the country almost to the jaws of death; who had squandered the national treasure with a profusion beyond all former example; who had tarnished the national honour; and reduced us from the situation of being the umpires of the civilized world, to the miserable condition of a people having to fight—not for honour, or ambition, or glory, as the people of England have been wont to fight, and as they fought under their Harrys and Edwards, and under

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diadem in the universe was menaced, to turn thine eyes aside from such guardian angels; to reject the services of such doctors and licentiates!

This was the head and front of the Prince's offending; and this alone was the cause of all that flood of calumny which the vulgar retainers of Mr. Pitt unceasingly poured on his Royal Highness.

But who, instead of the "Pilot who weather'd the Storm," the clean-handed Melville, the gentle Mulgrave, the facetious Canning, the urbane Rose, the nestor-like Liverpool, (the confident of the Prince's royal grandmother) the pious Percival, the thrice protestant Duigenan, and the other worthies whom the Prince did *not* countenance, were his Royal Highness's most chosen associates? The period to which we allude should be taken into consideration. It was in

1805, a period full of peril and alarm, soon after Mr. Pitt had displaced Mr. Addington, and by intrigues or subserviency, the most worthless, servile, and prostitute that ever disgraced an English minister, even in the worst periods of our history, prevailed on the sovereign to exclude from his presence the men whom the wishes, and the hopes, and the fears of the country emphatically called to the administration of public affairs. Then, when the people beheld with mixed emotions of grief and indignation, all those persons excluded from the councils of the king, on whose wisdom, integrity, and talents, the nation could have relied with confidence, and all the great offices of state filled by the men whose ignorance, obstinacy, and want of foresight had brought the kingdom to the brink of ruin; then it was some satisfaction to the people, and indeed

the only consolation they had left, to see the Heir Apparent alive to the dangers of his country, gathering round his person the statesmen whom the public voice pointed out as the fittest men to be entrusted with the management of public affairs.

The pharisaical scribblers of the treasury, and the oracles of the city took offence, but all good men who had the interest of their country truly at heart, rejoiced; and certainly never did the popularity of the Prince of Wales stand higher than at this period when the coalition between the friends of Lord Grenville, and Mr. Fox, brought into union all the splendid talents of the kingdom.

When the death of Mr. Pitt rendered the formation of a new administration necessary, the part the Prince took in the arrangements, rendered him again obnoxious to the abuse of

the venal crew of treasury scribblers and city politicians, who condemned as indelicate the part he was taking to secure to his country the blessings of a firm, efficient, extended, and united administration. The public joy which the formation of that administration caused; the public sorrow which the loss of its most distinguished member excited; and the public regret occasioned by its dismissal; form the best justification of the principles on which it was composed.

Never need the Prince of Wales blush, that he used his best endeavours to drive from the presence of the king his father, the troop of hungry and mercenary state leeches, blockheads by nature, and politicians by trade, who, when a place is vacant, do not stoop to enquire who is the fittest person to fill it, but which of their retainers is most in want of the

office; who, laughed at or pitied by their friends and intimates for their known and palpable imbecility, think no employments too arduous for their abilities, and least of all any rewards sufficient for their services.—Never need the Prince of Wales blush that he was in any degree instrumental in dismissing from his royal father's presence, "the dregs and heel-taps" of Mr. Pitt's administration; and though unhappily the same men, by a scandalous and hypocritical delusion, are in power again, let us not defraud the Prince of his just share of applause for the part he took towards procuring their dismissal at the commencement of 1806.

Never need the Prince of Wales blush, that instead of dotage and superannuation he recommended Lord Grenville to the king his father, for his prime minister; never need he be

ashamed of having introduced Mr. Fox into the royal presence in preference to Mr. Canning; or of having advised his sovereign to prefer the counsels of such a man as Mr. Windham to those of Lord Castlereagh.

In most cases it is the duty of a Prince of Wales to keep aloof from politics and party; but the country may fall into such a dangerous crisis that the Prince would be reprehensible if he did not declare his sentiments on public affairs. Such was the state of the country in 1806; and the manly and energetic part taken by his Royal Highness, secured to it for a season, the most popular and efficient administration, that the nation had seen since the days of the Marquis of Rockingham. This was a crime not easy to be forgiven by the corrupt faction who under Pitt,

and Dundas, and Jenkinson, had so long preyed upon the vitals of the nation; and no wonder therefore their partizans should rail at the Prince for his share in it.

About this period an attack was commenced on the Prince, very different from that of the scribblers to whom we have alluded, yet so singular in all its circumstances, that we think it would be improper to pass it over without some remarks. We mean the suit in chancery respecting the guardianship of Miss Seymour, in which, though the Prince was only a collateral party, his feelings were supposed, notwithstanding, to be as nearly concerned as those of any other person. The question on which the court of chancery was called to pronounce, was, whether the infant daughter of the late Lord Hugh Seymour should remain under the guardianship

of Mrs. Fitzherbert, to whose care she had been entrusted by her mother, Lady Horatio Seymour, almost from the hour of her birth; or whether she should be placed under the care of the same guardians as the other children of Lord Hugh and Lady Horatio?

It appeared from the affidavits exhibited in the court of chancery during the progress of this curious suit, that both Lord Hugh and Lady Horatio Seymour wished their daughter to remain under the protection of Mrs. Fitzherbert, but as this was not legally provided for in the will of Lord Hugh, who was the survivor, it was contended by the guardians of his other children, that it was improper to permit Miss Seymour to remain in the hands of a Roman Catholic, lest, while she continued under such guardianship, her religious principles should be subverted.

Some *wholesome* old statutes, (thanks to the liberality and moderation of the times become obsolete) provide that no Protestant child shall be entrusted to the care of a Roman Catholic guardian, unless the Protestant relations next of kin shall thereunto consent; and these statutes, in the case of Miss Seymour, were attempted to be enforced. It was shewn in evidence, that Lady Horatio Seymour (one of the most virtuous and accomplished, as she was one of the most lovely women of her age), on her death-bed bequeathed her youngest daughter to the care of Mrs. Fitzherbert, (who on account of Lady Horatio's ill health, had had the rearing of the child from her infancy,) and with all the solemnity of a dying request, conjured the Prince of Wales to see that her last wishes were carried into effect.

It is not possible to conceive a scene

more solemn and affecting than that which it was proved on oath to have passed between the Prince of Wales and Lady Horatio Seymour, a few hours before her decease.—Worn out by that insatiable and unconquerable scourge of English beauty, a pulmonary consumption, her ladyship sent for his Royal Highness a few hours previous to her dissolution, and in the most earnest and pressing terms, conjured him to watch over the future safety of her daughter, who was then, and had been almost from her birth, under the care of Mrs. Fitzherbert. The Prince, deeply affected with the scene, promised to comply with her Ladyship's request, and on the death of Lord Hugh Seymour, took upon himself the whole charge of maintaining and educating the orphan, so that her own fortune, which was but narrow, might accumulate for her future benefit.

It ought to be mentioned, that Lord Hugh Seymour, who was an admiral, and commanded a squadron at Jamaica, died on that station subsequently to Lady Horatio, but without receiving intelligence of her ladyship's death. By his will he bequeathed the guardianship of his children to his Lady, so that had Lady Horatio survived him but a single day, she might have left the guardianship of her daughter to whom she pleased, without any one having a right to interfere.

It appeared clearly in evidence, that the child had been placed under the protection of Mrs. Fitzherbert with the perfect concurrence and approbation of Lord Hugh Seymour; that he had frequently expressed the utmost gratitude for the tenderness which that lady had shewn to his daughter; and there appeared no reason whatever to suppose, that he would have changed the dispo-

sitions which his Lady had made respecting their child on her death-bed.

It appeared further, that Miss Seymour was a child of an extremely delicate constitution; that she had with great difficulty been reared; and that in all probability her life would be endangered, were she to be removed out of the hands of Mrs. Fitzherbert, and committed to the care of another person.

The only answer that was made to all this, and indeed the sole objection to Miss Seymour's remaining under the protection of Mrs. Fitzherbert was, that that lady being a Roman Catholic, the religious principles of her Protestant ward might be endangered. In reply to this, Mrs. Fitzherbert put in an affidavit, denying that she was actuated by any spirit of proselytism, or had any desire to convert her ward; on the contrary, that she was determined to edu-

cate her according to the religious principles of her noble parents. An affidavit of the Prince of Wales to the same effect was read in court; and another of the Bishop of Winchester, in which his Lordship deposed, that he had examined Miss Seymour touching her religious instruction, and found that she had received regular lessons on the subject from a clergyman of the church of England, and was as well and properly instructed in the fundamentals of the Protestant faith, as it was possible for a young person of her age to be.

Such were the leading facts detailed in the documents presented to the Court of Chancery in the course of this curious suit. How it would ultimately have ended, we cannot presume to conjecture, as after having occupied the attention of the court for a considerable length of time, it was referred

to the arbitration of the head of Miss Seymour's family, the Marquis of Hertford. What the decision of that nobleman was we do not know ; but we may fairly presume it was not unfavourable to the guardianship of Mrs. Fitzherbert, since Miss Seymour still continues under the protection of that lady.

On the above transaction we shall offer no comment ; but we feel we cannot better introduce another story not quite of the same kind, but not differing much in principle, than by taking a passage from a ministerial newspaper which appeared towards the latter end of the year 1804. The only preliminary observation that we feel it necessary to make is, that the Prince and his Royal Father, after a coolness of some months duration, had an interview together at Kew, which gave rise to the following comments in a news-

paper devoted to Mr. Pitt and Lord Melville.—“ The happy interview and reconciliation between his Majesty and the Prince of Wales, have been placed upon such a footing by the partizans of the opposition, that some comments and explanations seem to be indispensably necessary. We have observed an extraordinary anxiety in them to assure the public, that the event is totally unmixed with political consideration, and that it has not the slightest political tendency, is an assertion which we will not credit. Is there a man amongst us that has not seen the lengths to which political differences have been carried? They have divided the dearest relatives, and shaken the longest friendships. But when a reconciliation is effected between men who have long been divided, is it possible that it can be effected without mutually softening the violence, and

allaying the heat of political animosity? To say, then, that the reconciliation between his Majesty and the Prince of Wales has no political tendency, appears to us an absurdity, unless, indeed, those who assert it mean to aver that the reconciliation is not sincere! But if it be sincere, as we believe it is, it is impossible but that it must have a political tendency. The very caution, and preliminary steps taken by the opposition, bespeak their fears and apprehensions. They wish to give the reconciliation the air and form of a negotiation; they seem to have tried to hedge the Prince round with clogs and conditions; they submit his feelings and affections to the cold, calculating process of diplomatic proceeding. Mr. Fox must come to town; Mr. Pitt must be consulted.—Why? The intrusion of Mr. Pitt into the transaction is easily accounted for;

they wish to have it supposed that Mr. Pitt exercises such a despotic influence, as to render his consent necessary, even upon a subject relating to the domestic ties and affections of his Sovereign and the Heir Apparent. It is true that they confess his behaviour to have been candid and manly, but they take care to add, that "he disavowed all wish to suffer any ministerial interference whatever on the occasion." What do they mean by this? Do they mean to insinuate to the courts of Europe, that ministerial interferences does or can extend to the preventing a reconciliation between the King of England and his son, that the King must ask Mr. Pitt's consent to have an interview with his son, and that the son must enter into a negotiation with Mr. Pitt before he can be allowed to pay his dutiful respects to his father? Such is the inference which

they seem to intend should be drawn from the appeal made to Mr. Pitt. We dare say that gentleman will feel little inclined to thank them for a compliment purchased at such an expence.—It is impossible, we should think, for the Prince not to see that the opposition make a parade of these preliminary steps for the purpose of having it supposed that they have him in their toils and trammels. “ You may be reconciled to your father, but you must not support his minister.” This is the language they hold to him ; but can he believe them when they tell him that “ every loyal Englishman will rejoice to hear, that in the happy interview between his Majesty and the Prince, as well as in all the preliminary steps that led to it, there was not the slightest mixture either of policy or party?” Can it be a subject of joy to any loyal Englishman to

hear that the King and the Prince entertained different political sentiments? Every loyal Englishman would have been glad to have been informed that there had been a mixture of politics in the interview; for it can never be any other than a subject of sorrow and regret to see the Heir Apparent to the throne at variance in political sentiments with his illustrious father.—Yet it must be allowed, that it is the obvious interest of the opposition to endeavour to continue a difference in political opinion between his Majesty and the Prince, in order that they may shelter themselves under his Royal Highness's countenance. The principle of keeping father and son asunder, forms a part also of Buonapartè's policy. A striking instance has lately been afforded in the indecent encouragement given by the Corsican to the Prince

of Wirtemberg, in the opposition to his father, the husband of our amiable and virtuous Princess Royal. But we rejoice in believing the party will no longer be able to misrepresent his Highness's opinions respecting them. They would otherwise continue to find a political motive and meaning for every word and action, for it is not long since the public saw the very conviviality of the Prince's hospitable board, represented as political meetings for the purpose of strengthening and consolidating a system of opposition to the confidential friends and advisers of his Royal Highness's father. Let his Royal Highness reflect too upon the consequences of its being supposed for a moment by the rest of Europe, that he approves of Mr. Fox's prostrate principles with respect to France. What would be the opinion of Europe, could they imagine,

after Buonapartè's daring insults and libels upon his Royal Highness's father, that he could entertain for an instant the supposition that the designs and intentions of Buonapartè were purely pacific, and innocently commercial? We repeat, therefore, our firm opinion, that the reconciliation must have a tendency of a political nature. We hail it as an auspicious omen for the Prince, and for the country; for nothing, we seriously believe, could give the people greater satisfaction than to see his Royal Highness escape from the perilous support of such a party."

We insert this specimen of the argumentative powers of the adherents of Mr. Pitt, and Lord Melville, not on account of its brilliancy, but to shew to what miserable shifts these venal tools of power descended for the purpose of calumniating the political friends of the Prince. Nothing

was easier or cheaper than to call Mr. Fox the friend and partizan of Buonapartè, and to make the Prince a participator in the sentiments imputed to that great man. It was not surprising that the men who on every occasion, had incessantly railed against the Prince, who had represented him as a spendthrift, a libertine, and a gambler; who had insinuated that he was half an apostate from the religion of his ancestors; and hinted that he had forfeited his right to the throne by an illegal marriage—it was not surprising that such men should have seen in the Prince's faithful adherence to the political maxims of Mr. Fox, something very like a desire to bend the knee of Buonapartè.—These mole-eyed politicians, who in their blind admiration of Mr. Pitt, and Lord Melville, seemed to think that all pa-

triotism was comprised in hatred of Buonapartè, and that he was the best friend of his country who could call foul names the longest, and rail the loudest against the Corsican usurper; and because Mr. Fox had adopted that line of conduct which best became the first and most distinguished statesman in the British empire, and had abstained from debasing his splendid effusions of oratory with that senseless Billingsgate rant, which so much disgraced the harangues of some of the parliamentary leaders at this period, he was stigmatized with the opprobrious imputation of being the tool and partizan of France. The Prince of Wales too, it was distantly hinted, because it was known Mr. Fox was in his confidence, held sentiments favorable to the ruler of France! To what extremes are not men sometimes

carried by the madness and fury of party !

Cowards are always the greatest blusterers and railers ; and those who feared Buonapartè the most, were the loudest in their execrations of him. Among the many changes which have taken place in these eventful and unhappy times, there is none perhaps more deeply to be lamented, or which has had a more powerful effect in deteriorating the public mind, than the ascendancy which the commercial aristocracy has of late years gained over the whole landed and hereditary aristocracy of the kingdom. We know not a more respectable and valuable character than the real merchant, and we esteem him accordingly ; but the money changer, the usurer, the loan contractor, the stock jobber, and all the locust tribe of paymasters, comis-misaries, contractors, and agents,

“ whose equipages shine like meteors, and whose palaces rise like exhalations ;” these men are objects of our supreme and sovereign detestation.— “ These are the men,” Dr. Johnson well observed, “ who, without virtue, labor, hazard, are growing rich as their country is impoverished; they rejoice when obstinacy or ambition adds another year to slaughter and devastation, and laugh from their desks at bravery and science, while they are adding figure to figure, and cypher to cypher, hoping for a new contract from a new armament, and computing the profits of a siege or a tempest.”

The men who have thus grown rich on the miseries of their country, constitute the bulk of the monied aristocracy, and in the arrogance, ostentatious expence, and “ Eastern luxury,” far exceed any of the old and noble landed aristocracy. Almost fill-

ing the House of Commons with their creatures, they have of late aspired to seats in the House of Peers, and in some instances their ambition has been gratified.

Soon after the rupture of the peace of Amiens, one of these recently ennobled "monied-men"* proposed to

* The following lines, though not written on the occasion of the person's being elevated, to whom we allude, are so descriptive of what he must have felt on the occasion, that if he has not seen them, we beg to recommend them to his perusal.

" Though dull as peasant, ox, or ass,

" Of late I lay a senseless mass,

" Unworthy note or name ;

" Methought a fiat reach'd my ear,

" Let Mr. Scrub become a Peer,

" And Scrub a Peer became.

The king may make Lords, but we much question whether it is within his prerogative to make noblemen.

give a splendid Asiatic entertainment in celebration of his new dignity, and among the other modes he devised for the amusement of his guests was a mock representation of the coronation of the Emperor of the French, the *real* ceremony of which had just taken place at Paris. This worthy Peer, the son of a man who was once a banker's clerk at Paris, thought he could not better testify his abhorrence of Buonapartè, and his loyalty to the King's ministers who had made him a Lord, than by a ridiculous burlesque of what had been seriously acted at Paris in favor of a man who had half a million of soldiers at his command, and to this spectacle so *attic*, so worthy of the countenance of the Princes of the blood, and of the gallant and loyal nobility and gentry of the empire, the Prince of Wales and his Royal Brothers, and, in a word, all the fashion

of the capital were invited. For some days previous to the fête, it was puffed in the "Fashionable Prints" with an assurance that would have done credit to Astley's or Sadler's Wells; and nothing was to be seen in those columns which are devoted to "Fashionable Intelligence," but pompous and bombastical accounts of the splendid preparations that were making at F——house for the coronation of the Emperor of the "Gulls."

No person who thought seriously of the only arms with which Buonapartè was to be combated, could hear of these inanities without extreme disgust; and the Prince of Wales caused it to be intimated to the new made Peer, that he could not honor his intended fête with his presence, unless the preparations so much spoken of were discontinued. But how did his monied Lordship act on the occasion? Did he

promise a ready and dutiful compliance with the wishes of his Royal Highness? No! he cavalierly told the Prince "he might come or stay," and that as for the coronation he was determined to give it.

We know not what answer the great Duke of Cumberland would have made to this Broad-street Lord; but we are persuaded it would not have been a very gracious one. Thanks however, to those politicians who from the Earl of Bute down to the present day, have endeavoured to rob us of all our good old English feelings, a new made Lord may now insult not only a foreign Prince, but even our own Princes with impunity.

The Prince's request was peremptorily refused, and the ridiculous spectacle would have been persisted in, but that a much esteemed nobleman, of one of the first families in the land,

the lineal descendant of the Plantagenets, had his only son at that moment detained a prisoner in France. His fears for the safety of his heir, effected what the remonstrances of the Prince of Wales were unable to do, and the obnoxious spectacle was given up.—The son of the nobleman to whom we have alluded, was afterwards a negotiator for peace at the court of the French Emperor, and those very men who would have hazarded his safety by their ribald exhibitions, would have been the first to toss up their caps for joy at the success of his mission.

CHAPTER V.

LIBELS CIRCULATED BY THE DAILY PRINTS
AGAINST THE PRINCE OF WALES—DEGRADED
STATE OF THE PRESS—OBSERVATIONS ON AU-
THORS AND BOOKSELLERS—MUNIFICENCE OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS TOWARDS THE LI-
TERARY FUND—VERSES RECITED AT THEIR
ANNIVERSARY MEETING—CONCLUDING RE-
MARKS.

IN addition to the mortifications which the Prince of Wales was destined to receive from administration and from the scriblers, who, if they were not absolutely in the pay, and under the patronage of ministers, certainly received no checks from them in

their profligate endeavours to vilify and degrade the character of the Heir Apparent of the monarchy, he had the ill fortune to be attacked in a point where men of sensibility commonly feel most acutely, and are least disposed to have made a subject of public discussion.—We allude to those reports and rumours, which under the names of “Delicate Inquiry,” and “Delicate Investigation” made, for a time, a wonderful impression on the thoughtless and senseless of all ranks in every part of the British empire.

The honour of giving birth to this notable controversy belongs, we believe, to a morning paper long distinguished for the versatility of its politics, and the scandal and frippery of its columns. In this “Fashionable Print” (farrago of folly!) the communication was first made to the public

that serious charges had been advanced against the conjugal fidelity of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and consequently that it had been deemed a matter of state necessity to put the conduct of that august personage into a train of investigation. Had the conductors of this "Fashionable Print" stopped here, we should perhaps have been contented to have blamed them only for their precipitancy and officiousness. We should have said, what right had they to interfere in a matter where delicacy and reserve were so suitable? Was there not sufficient integrity, and virtue, and honour in the King and his cabinet advisers safely to have permitted the investigation (if investigation was necessary) to remain with them? Were any national interests in such danger of being betrayed, that these *venal alarmists*

thought it their duty to come forward on the occasion, and sound their *horn* of Grub-street scurrillity, of tea-table talk, and Fashionable detraction? Who called on these would-be champions of the Princess of Wales, to offer their degrading interference on the occasion, and thereby dishonour the Royal Personage whose cause they affected so zealously and so disinterestedly to defend?

Of the trash which issued from this press, it is by no means our intention to take notice. When the celebrated coalition took place between Lord North, Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, and the other great men who had been divided on the subject of the American war, a book was published entitled the "Beauties of North, Fox, and Burke," which contained all the abuse which those great men had at any period

heaped upon each other. Were a collection to be published of the "Beauties" of the print we have alluded to, it would resemble the collection intended to ridicule the statesmen of 1803.—We should as soon think of making use of the publication of 1783, to impeach the memories of North, Burke, and Fox, as make a selection of the "Beauties" of the "Fashionable Print," for the purpose of vindicating the Prince of Wales from the calumnies of the morning paper in question.

What the public learnt from this fountain head of lubricity and assurance, was nothing but hints, conjectures, innuendoes and promises, of ultimately explaining what to the present hour has never been explained.—We have some remembrance of the vileness of the French press in the

days of Robespierre and Barrere, and we know something of the vileness of the American press, (a press, by the bye, which, with all the boasted freedom of the new world, stands more in the way of the rational improvement of the United States, than any physical disadvantages under which they labour, though they are numerous) but we scarcely remember to have seen either in the French or American presses so barefaced a dereliction of decency, so outrageous an attack on the decorums that ought to be observed towards rank and station, as in the instance before us; which, under the shew of vindicating the Princess of Wales, made its catamose and lethargic strictures a vehicle for defaming the character of his Royal Highness the Prince.

It was not to be expected that

the impotent proceedings of a daily paper, in a country like this, where literature has become a kind of bye word of reproach on account of the meanness and prostitution of those who are its votaries, should excite a general ferment among the minor retainers of the press. Which was the popular side of the question, enquired that mean and despicable class of booksellers who profit by the vices and depravity of one half of the community, and by the credulity and folly of the other? Which was the popular side of the question, re-echoed the mercenary, unhappy slaves whom these men have at their nod?

The Prince of Wales had for many years been a sort of standing-dish so peculiarly gratifying to the foul appetites of these professed libellers; and *independent* men, honourable members

their profligate endeavours to vilify and degrade the character of the Heir Apparent of the monarchy, he had the ill fortune to be attacked in a point where men of sensibility commonly feel most acutely, and are least disposed to have made a subject of public discussion.—We allude to those reports and rumours, which under the names of “Delicate Inquiry,” and “Delicate Investigation” made, for a time, a wonderful impression on the thoughtless and senseless of all ranks in every part of the British empire.

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It was not to be expected that

consolations in the simpers of a methodist preacher. When there was no prospect of getting into the treasury, why not go to the tabernacle? The saints would have received him with open arms. Did the observation of the tar, that "the greatest rogues always turn king's evidence," affright him? How little does he know of the tempers and hearts of the men to whom, in an evil hour, he neglected to make his advances. Saints are strongly tinctured with the spirit of proselytism. We do not mean to say they would have rejoiced much in the conversion of such a sinner as Jefferys; but the *bonné bouches* that he could have retailed to them, would have come to us with a double relish, had they been seasoned with their comments, or enlarded with their piety.

What the Prince of Wales, at any period of his life, has done to deserve

the hostility of the English press, we are utterly at a loss to conceive. Munificent by temper, the friend of men of eminent talents, the encourager of arts and sciences, the protector and rewarder of ingenious men in every walk that requires intellectual superiority,—possessing the advantages which certainly none of the Princes of the House of Brunswick ever enjoyed before him, of mixing more intimately with all classes of his future subjects, and turning those advantages to no other uses than those of grace, benignity and favour,—can we restrain our indignation when we think of the reams of abuse that have been written by hireling garreteers, and circulated by mercenary booksellers, to defame, vilify, and dishonour him in the eyes of his country and the world?

Shall we vindicate the Prince of Wales against the senseless calumnies

of vulgar and black-hearted garretéers! No! we scorn to break a lance with such miscreants. The Prince's honour forbids it. Our duty, our loyalty, our love, our veneration, our allegiance forbid it.—A contest with their Captain M——s, and their Sir J——D——'s, and their Lady D——, and their initial heroes and heroines, would be worse than Falstaff's encounter with the men in buckram. Such vapidity was never before seen, such vapidity we never wish to see again.

While the press was teeming with reproaches against the Prince of Wales, what was the conduct of the illustrious personage attacked? Did he attempt to crush his wretched libellers by means of the attorney-general? Did he answer their pamphlets by "informations ex officio" in the courts of Westminster Hall? Did he fill Newgate or the King's Bench, as he might

have done, with his slanderers and their still more infamous employers? No! To the Prince of Wales the whole body of literary men in the kingdom are under more essential and solemn obligations than to any Prince or sovereign that ever preceded him. To the honour of the Prince, it is to be remarked, that a very few months previous to the attack which was commenced against him by the writers of "Royal Inquiries," &c. and long after every sort of abuse had been vomited upon him, except that which the discussion of this new subject was peculiarly calculated to call forth, he in a manner the most princely and munificent took under his patronage, the benevolent and excellent institution for the relief of authors and their families in distress. When the poor buckle makers of Birmingham waited upon the Prince of Wales with a pair of

buckles for his acceptance, in hopes that his Royal Highness's example might do away the dangerous innovation of shoe-strings, he received them with condescension, and promised to use his endeavours to promote their interest. Shoe-strings, however, still prevail; but we never heard that the buckle-makers of Birmingham were ungrateful, on that account, for the favor which his Royal Highness designed them.

The ingratitude of disappointed sycophants, the ingratitude of mercenary tradesmen (like Jefferys), we are not surprised at; but we must confess the ingratitude of literary men both astonishes and afflicts us. The Prince of Wales, it may boldly be affirmed, has done more for literary men than all his predecessors put together; yet strange to say, it is from literary men that he

has met with the worst return. It was his patronage which gave a body and consolidation to the Literary Fund,* an institution calculated to do more justice to intellectual eminence and useful literary industry than any that has hitherto been attempted. This circumstance alone should bind every

* The following remarks which appeared in a monthly publication soon after the Prince of Wales became patron of the Literary Fund, well deserve the attention of every one who takes any *true* concern in the welfare of English literature.

“ That disappointed and suffering genius should often burst forth in complaint and invective against that constitution of things under which it is starving; and that penury should lend an ear to the solicitations of venality and corruption, and plead any cause that will afford bread to the hungry, cannot at all be wondered at. The subject of astonishment is, that statesmen should not in some more evident degree, accommodate their conduct to the important changes in the state of society.”

man of letters in attachment and fidelity to the Prince of Wales. It was a good which the poor, and miserable, and fraudulent class of them had no reason to hope for from their previous libels against the Prince, and his magnanimity, in overlooking them, should have been repaid by their lasting gratitude. When

“ Th’ illustrious HEIR of Britain’s Royal Throne,
“ Attach’d to science, makes its cause his own :
“ Treasures long hid—to human eye deny’d,
“ Since cities vanish’d, and since Pliny died !
“ The letter’d wealth Vesuvius whelm’d in night !
“ His Princely bounty* brings once more to light.

* “ The Prince of Wales, with the most laudable zeal for the cause of literature, has employed a gentleman for some years, at Naples, upon a work of great expence, and inconceivable labor, to superintend the unrolling of the charred manuscripts found in Herculaneum and Pompeii—Literary Treasures ! which were buried with those

- “ Matchless in manners, and in taste refin’d,
“ He knows that Genius is the wealth of mind ;
“ And still to Learning’s noblest interests true,
“ Becomes its PATRON, and its Votary too.
“ The Muse with pleasure could the theme pro-
long,
“ And Cambria’s Prince should dignify her song ;
“ But noble deeds the noble mind repay,
“ Nor need the tribute of the Poet’s lay :
“ And he has other duties to perform,
“ To awe the Tyrant, and the Patriot warm ;
“ To rouse his country nobly to withstand
“ The foe that threatens to invade the land ;
“ And make him in his turn severely feel,
“ How sharp the sword when justice points the
steel.”

W. T. FITZGERALD.

This consolation must remain to the Prince, notwithstanding the ingratitude of some who have tasted of his fa-

unfortunate cities, by that most dreadful eruption of Mount Vesuvius, when the elder Pliny perished ; in the first year of the Emperor Titus, A. D. 79.”

vours, and the malignity of others who have been disappointed of his bounty, that he will always be secure of the love, esteem, and veneration of the liberal and candid, of the wise and the good, of the patriotic and independent; so long as he gathers round him such men as Earl Moira, Lord Grenville, Lord Erskine, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Gratton; so long as he perseveres in those principles by which the glorious revolution of 1688 was effected, and his family placed on the throne; so long as he continues to patronize merit of every degree, ancient learning, the fine arts, the effusions of modern genius, and every description of praise-worthy exertion;—so long (and we will venture to predict it will be till the sorrowful period when he is gathered to his fathers) may his Royal Highness despise the vile calumnies and slanders of the mis-

creant herd of pamphleteers and pamphlet-making booksellers, and rely on the cordial attachment, devotion, and fidelity of every class of his future subjects, whose love, veneration, and good opinion, a noble-minded Prince can in any degree be ambitious of possessing.

THE END.

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